

# The Crumb

*The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English*

Volume 86, Number 1

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

"A Book of  
Verses  
underneath the  
Bough, A Jug of  
Wine, a Loaf of  
Bread - and  
Thou Beside me  
singing in the  
Wilderness- Oh,  
Wilderness were  
Paradise enow!"  
-Omar Khayyam,  
trans. Edward  
Fitzgerald

## Schedule

9 AM - 4 PM  
Registration  
Blue Parlor

6 PM  
Opening Banquet  
Dining Hall

7:30 PM  
Opening  
Ceremony  
Little Theater

## Banquet Menu

Summer salad  
with melon,  
strawberries, and  
Brie; roast sirloin  
stuffed with  
mushrooms or  
vegetable paella;  
mudslide pie for  
dessert.

## Weather

Today  
Hot, possible  
T-storms. 88.

Tomorrow  
Scattered storms.  
High 83, low 66.

Thursday  
More of the same.  
84/66.

The natural splendor of this small plateau amid the Green Mountains was what first attracted Joseph Battell, who in 1866 purchased the farmhouse on the current site of the Inn. The pleasure of good company has brought people here since the 1870's, when Battell erected the Inn and the neighboring cottages and invited friends to summer here. And the sublime joy of careful study is why, for the past eighty-six summers, teachers and scholars have congregated at this school of English. Now you have made the pilgrimage to this secluded and stunning location, ready to revel in the manifold joys a summer here offers - the life of the mind among kindred spirits in this spectacular setting. Welcome to Bread Loaf in Vermont.

## Bread Loaf's 86<sup>th</sup> Summer: Great Expectations on a Magic Mountain

Once you've officially registered for the summer in the Blue Parlor (in the rear west corner of the Inn) and marked your hometown with a pushpin on the map in the back hallway, you're free to unpack, explore the campus, seek out old friends, and meet new ones. However you spend your afternoon, come back to the Inn for the Opening Banquet tonight at 6, after which everyone will adjourn to the Burgess Meredith Little Theater for the official opening of the 86<sup>th</sup> session of the Bread Loaf School of English. Director Jim Maddox, Associate Director Emily Bartels, and Middlebury College President Ron Liebowitz will welcome you to Vermont, introduce this year's faculty and Acting Ensemble, and apprise you of noteworthy happenings since last summer and exciting plans for this one. Refreshments will follow on the West Lawn.

## Inn Control

Bread Loaf stalwarts Edward and Victoria Brown return as Innkeepers once again - and, assisted by Kalli Federhofer, MacNair Randall, Ana Silva, and Joy MacVey, they'll run Bread Loaf's nerve center, the Front Desk. Today, one of them welcomed you, handed you this publication, and pointed you in the right direction. All summer long, they'll cash your checks, route incoming calls, sell Cokes and candy, sort and send mail, provide refuge to lost objects until they become found, answer any and all miscellaneous questions, and generally keep their eyes open, ears to the ground, and fingers on Bread Loaf's pulse.

New students think that Elaine Lathrop, Sandy LeGault, and the rest of the staff of the Bread Loaf Office are these all-powerful beings who know everything there is to know about Bread Loaf, answer every question, and offer help and encouragement at every turn. They're right. You can find Elaine, Lexa DeCourval, and Karen Browne in the main Bread Loaf office in the rear of the Inn if you need to change course selections, set up appointments with the Directors, or use the School's fax machine (at a nominal fee). In the Inn Seminar Room (just out the back door of the Inn), Judy Jessup and Sandy (once she returns from Oxford) can answer your questions about fellowships, transferring credits, or letters of recommendation. About the only things beyond their powers are altering the fickle Vermont weather and halting time to allow you to meet that looming essay deadline.

## Director-y Assistants

Kurt Broderson, Maggie Favretti, and Jen Hansum return as this summer's Assistants to the Director. They'll show the Friday night films, dispense refreshments at receptions and Barn dances, enforce the 11 p.m. noise ordinance, and generally make sure the summer runs smoothly. Any appearance of ubiquity and/or omniscience on their part should come as no surprise, as superhuman feats are casually stipulated in their contracts. That, however, shouldn't stop you from saying "thanks" now and again for their efforts.

## Mail Hegemony

The objective reality is that there just aren't enough post office boxes to go around, so expect to share a box with another student. That unexpected issue of *Granta* is, therefore, not a gift from the Mail Fairy. It probably belongs to your box buddy. Put it back.

Any hegemonic relationship depends on the dominant party providing the proletariat with goods and services in exchange for which the disempowered willingly submit to the existing authority. Accordingly, in exchange for the minor inconvenience of making you share a post office box, the Front Desk Post Officers will gladly sell you stamps, ship packages, and sort incoming mail by lunchtime. Sounds like a fair trade to me, although some critics might label me a puppet of a soulless, authoritarian regime for saying so.

## Hole-in-the-Wall Mart

The Bookstore is located in the Annex basement and stocks course texts, office supplies, health & beauty products, snacks, phone cards, and all manner of Bread Loaf paraphernalia that will proclaim "I'm an English geek who spends summers at reading camp, and I don't care who knows it!" to all who behold you.

Ed Brown and the Front Desk staff double as your Book-Keepers this summer. They'll be open for business from 3-5:30 today and 8:30-12:30 on school days after that. For this week at least, please purchase texts only for classes in which you are enrolled. After then, there will still be surplus copies of *The Faerie Queene* available for use as doorstops, high-density insect swatters, free weights, or light pleasure reading during all the free time you'll have between paper research, contributing to BreadNet forums, attending lectures, and conferences with your professors.

## Our Library Is Dukedom Large Enough

The Davison Library houses a relatively thorough collection of literature as well as all the reserve texts for every Bread Loaf course, with anything else from Middlebury's extensive library holdings easily summoned from campus with a few keystrokes. Chris Brady and the rest of this summer's Davison staff can minister to your every bibliotechnical need.

The ground floor's comfortable seating and (on cold days) crackling fire make it a good spot for curling up with Annie Proulx or August Wilson (not the authors themselves, for heaven's sake – what kind of a place do you think this is?). Typing is not allowed downstairs, so cart your laptop up to the second floor and word-process and e-mail to your heart's content.

## "Apple Cellar" Really Dell-icious

Tucked beneath the north end of the Library is the Apple Cellar, whose rustic name conceals its cutting-edge technology and obscures the fact that most of its machines are PCs. Caroline Eisner and her student assistants will always be available to answer questions from "How do I use BreadNet?" to "Why won't this %\*&%#@ computer read my disk?" Please refrain from using the computers to play games, leave all food and drink outside, and scrupulously pay for your laser printing – we operate on the honor system and prefer that you adopt Odysseus' definition of "honor" rather than Falstaff's.

## "Out, Damned Spot" Spot

The small white hut between Larch and the Barn houses Bread Loaf's laundry facilities. Washing and drying cost \$1.25 each, and the Front Desk can usually supply you with quarters. Fair warning: as the summer progresses, more and more washers and dryers will ingest your coins, rattle and hum convincingly, yet effect no discernible change upon your garments in return. Although physical aggression might seem a tempting and potentially cathartic option at that point, please respond instead to such adversity with the withering sarcasm or choice epithets worthy of a School of English student.

## Patients Must Not Minister to Themselves

Instead, they should stagger, hobble, or limp across Route 125 to the Cornwall Clinic, where Bread Loaf RN's Sandy Brutkoski, Victoria Howde, and Sally Carver can provide care for most routine medical issues, including writer's cramp and paper cuts. (Writer's block, unfortunately, is a condition beyond even their formidable talents and may require "alternative medicine" in the form of a Frost Trail circuit or a salubrious outing to the Waybury.) Clinic hours are posted on the front door. In an emergency, always call an ambulance first (911), then alert the Front Desk. For an after-hours emergency, call the ambulance, then extension 2713 (Ed & Victoria) or 9-388-7703 (Jim Maddox).

## Accept Your Lot in Life

After you've settled in, make sure you move your vehicle to the large lot in front of the Barn (unless you live at Gilmore or Tamarack, in which case you're allowed to park at your dorm). You should not, can not, must not, *shall* not park along Route 125 – besides, your car will be so much happier in the lot amongst its brethren than it would be alongside the main road, where it would constantly worry about being sideswiped by a logging truck or stampeded by rampaging moose. Don't park behind the Inn either, as doing so obstructs emergency vehicles, food delivery trucks, and laundry vans.

The Vermont State Police tend to see the potential financial windfall in the arrival of three hundred out-of-state visitors who don't know about the sudden and unexpected drop in the speed limit through Ripton, so don't take the hairpin turns of 125 at hair-raising speeds unless you want to help fill their coffers.

## A Lesson Before Dining

Your class discussions should give you plenty of food for thought, and Bread Loaf sunsets can be spiritually nourishing, but the energy for long hours in the Library or hiking the Frost Trail will require supplemental sustenance. Bread Loaf cuisine is plentiful (multiple meal options, a salad bar, cereal available at every meal), imaginative (fennel in quantities you hadn't anticipated – or, for that matter, thought extant), and educative (you'll learn new words like "seitan" and "quinoa").

Weekday meals are waited, sit-down affairs; breakfast begins promptly at 7:30, lunch at 12:45, and dinner at 6:00. The staff of student servers, under the leadership of Headwaiters Russell Silverman, Kirsten Rohstedt, and Andy Pederson, will make every effort to make mealtimes enjoyable, but remember that your waiter has classes to attend and papers to write, just as you do – so return the favor by arriving on time and not lingering too long over yet another cup of coffee. Besides, Russell's not above resorting to inventive and painful uses of the salad tongs to urge recalcitrant diners towards the exit.

## The Outside World, Part I: Contacting It

Phones involve numbers, and numbers are more the forte of the Meat Loaf School of Mathematics, so here are some tips to help you non-numerical types get in touch with the real world.

Our remote location means that you'll hear *Song of Myself* reverberating through the trees more often than *Song of My Cell Phone*. Since the only way to acquire some signal bars is to head down the mountain, a phone card may prove more convenient. Campus phone directories should be located near each dorm phone. Note that the Front Desk's extension is 2700; dialing 0 will connect you to the main College switchboard, where no one will understand your questions about Suppressed Desires or Old Piney. To get an outside line, simply dial 9. If you find your dorm phone being unkindly monopolized, there's a pay phone in the Inn lobby and a curiously situated phone booth outside the laundry room.

The Bread Loaf switchboard will relay incoming calls to phones until 11 each evening, but you can place an outgoing call at any time, and outsiders can dial dorm phones directly at any hour by adding your floor's four-digit extension to (802)-443. Please be mindful of your hallmates, though; untangling *Light in August* is difficult enough without putting up with your late-night phone calls, and take messages unto others as you would have them take yours unto you.

## The Outside World, Part II: Visiting It

Those who prefer not to negotiate the curves of 125 on their own can hitch a ride to Middlebury on the Front Desk's van, which leaves each weekday afternoon at 1:45 from the front of the Inn and returns by 4:30. There's only space for seven aboard, so it's best to reserve a spot on the sign-up sheet posted daily at the Front Desk.

## The Outside World, Part III: News from It

There are those among us who, finding the *Crumb*'s extremely local focus and meager two-color presentation woefully insufficient, choose to supplement their news with the *New York Times*. *Times* subscribers can pick up their copies at the Front Desk starting tomorrow, but should be warned that the *Crumb* Bum plans to lurk in the Inn lobby, note any such persons, then spread scurrilous and blissfully unfounded gossip about them in future *Crumbs* as retribution for their perceived ingratitude.

## Inn Security

Like Grover's Corners or Winesburg, Ohio, Bread Loaf is the kind of place where you don't need to lock your door behind you. (Unlike those fictional locales, however, our stage manager is decidedly less intrusive and our populace less overrun with grotesques.) Your room can be locked from the inside, but if that doesn't soothe your soul, you can still obtain a room key from the Front Desk. Be aware, however, that **both** you and your roommate (if you have one) must show up together in order to receive keys. Any resulting lock-outs, however accidental, will incur a \$25 fee.

## It's Easy Being Green

The crystal-clear instructions on the recycling containers located throughout campus are, collectively, just about the only "text" you'll encounter this summer in which no embedded meanings, ironic significances, or coded dialectics can be plausibly discerned. Simply put glass in the containers marked "glass," paper in those marked "paper," and so forth. Little things help, too. Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Use a travel mug or Nalgene bottle instead of disposable cup after disposable cup. And deposit spent batteries at the Front Desk, where they will receive a brief eulogy and then an environmentally sound disposal.

## Burning Issues

Vermont state law prohibits smoking in all public buildings (including our dormitories), and Bread Loaf prohibits smoking on the front porch of the Inn, as the smoke tends to waft inside to others' discomfort. If you opt to smoke elsewhere, please exterminate all smoking material in the sand pails placed around campus for that purpose. The campus smoke detectors are easily triggered; if your room alarm goes off, air out the room and fan the smoke or hairspray away from the alarm. Chirping, buzzing, or twittering smoke detectors are pleading for a new battery, which the Front Desk can provide. Chirping, buzzing, or twittering animals are perfectly normal for Vermont, and under no circumstances should attempts be made to equip them with new batteries.

Bread Loaf's electrical system still retains its 19th-century fragility; thus, modern marvels such as coffee makers, microwaves, and hair dryers are forbidden, as they overburden the circuits and increase the risk of fire. (Happily, the bathrooms are wired to handle hair dryers.) Contraband items have been known to disappear suddenly from dorm rooms, later to be quietly absorbed by the local citizenry at Trader Jim's End-of-Summer Yard Sale.

## An Athlete Dying To Play

Fire destroyed Bread Loaf's outdoor bowling alley in 1931, but the very real pain of its absence is salved by the myriad athletic opportunities available this summer. Ultimate Frisbee will kick off (throw off?) its traditional Wednesday/Sunday schedule tomorrow after dinner. Disc golfers interested in supplementing their classes' challenging discourse with our challenging disc course should talk to Jon Freeman, who knows the layout.

In between his classes, David Huddle can usually be found administering a thrashing on the tennis courts outside the Library or joining in the friendly competition of our nightly volleyball match. Soccer and softball have been staples of recent summers as well; if you'd like to organize a game, just notify the *Crumb* with a prospective gathering time and place.

An abundance of paths and roads around Bread Loaf (some paved, some less traveled, perhaps even a few still lying in leaves no step has trodden black) awaits joggers, walkers, hikers, and bikers.

Unbelievably, \$75 buys you a full summer membership at Middlebury's challenging but friendly golf course, and it's never too early to start practicing for the traditional end-of-summer Scramble tournament. You need only show your I.D. to gain access to Middlebury's field house (indoor track, fitness center, basketball courts), and although the Midd pool is closed for renovations this summer, passes to other local natatoria will soon be made available.

## A Kids' Summer's Nice Dream

"Croutons" is Bread Loaf's day camp for the under ten crew – but that's not to say that the kids spend their days hammering out papers on "Representation As Reality: The Aesthetics of Liminality in Gold and the Purple Crayon." Instead, the Mary Johnson Children's Center offers a lively and enriching program at the Ripton Elementary School on Lincoln Road. Those in need of further info can call the Center at 388-2853.

## Bearin' Barren Bar in Barn

Although the Barn Snack Bar remains inoperative this summer, we'll still take care of people who like to eat between meals while reading between the lines. The Dining Hall staff will set out coffee and pastries in the Barn after breakfast for late risers; after dinner, they'll replenish the coffee supply and set out some bedtime snacks. And if you find the coffee urns sucked dry of every last drop of their sweet, sweet, precious, caffeinated nectar, remember that you can turn to the Barn vending machines at any hour for a Coke, a Red Bull, a Frappuccino, or any of their other various combinations of high-fructose corn syrup, xanthan gum, and Red Dye #4.

## The Last Masterpiece of John Done

Last summer, outgoing Middlebury President John McCardell pledged to restore Bread Loaf's swimmin' hole, Johnson Pond, which disappeared in 2000 when a violent storm washed away its dam. He's been true to his word; you'll find John's Pond, named in honor of the man without whose efforts not one shovelful of dirt would have been removed, by following the path behind the Barn.

Thanks to some judicious thinning of the nearby woods, John's Pond seems sunnier than its predecessor – which means that the pond water might be a shade warmer. Maybe – just maybe – the *Crumb* can officially retire its Johnson Pond Parade of Euphemisms ("bracing," "invigorating," etc., all of which concealed the fact that that water was usually so cold that the only reason you didn't scream upon landing in it was that the shock instantaneously sucked all the air out of your lungs). We'll find out soon enough, especially if some intrepid souls decide to resuscitate the traditional post-Barn Dance skinny-dip.

## Hall's Well That Tens Well

Nothing builds dorm spirit like brainstorming submissions for the *Crumb*'s weekly Top Ten list, a Bread Loaf tradition that predates Letterman's feeble imitation (topping the 1924 list of "Top Ten Things Not To Say When Perambulating Across The Meadow With Your Beau" was "What say we end your Age of Innocence?")

The Men of Annex have traditionally used superior numbers and nightly brainstorming sessions on their porch to march to victory in this summerlong competition, but in 2004 the Boys of Barn East used a last-minute alliance of questionable permissibility to dethrone the perennial champs. Gather your dorm together, give yourselves a catchy, preferably alliterative name (*Guys of Gilmore, Ladies of Larch*, etc.), and submit your ideas for the Top Ten Signs That You're A Little Too Excited About Being At Bread Loaf to the *Crumb* by Friday at 10:00 a.m. The best ten (or so) entries will be featured in that day's issue.

## Crumb, Live With Me, And Be My Loaf

The *Crumb* is your daily source of news, announcements, a notoriously undependable weather forecast, the dinner menu, and dozens of obscure literary allusions and strained puns. You can grab your hot-off-the-presses (warm-from-the-copier, really) edition around noon each weekday at the Front Desk or outside the Dining Hall entrance. The *CyberCrumb*, an electronic version of this publication, is posted each morning in the CyberBarn for our peers in Oxford, New Mexico, and Alaska, as well as for the extended Bread Loaf family eager to keep tabs on campus news and alumni suffering from annual late-June pangs of nostalgia.

Send your moose sightings, requests for rides to the airport, or any other announcements of note to *Crumb* Bum Jon Freeman's mailbox (actual or cyber-) by 11 a.m. for inclusion in that day's issue. Take care not to get him confused with Professor Jonathan Freedman; the *Crumb* Bum's advice about your "Fictions of Finance" paper topic will almost assuredly prove suspect, while the professor will receive your news with interest but fail to generate the campuswide publicity for which you had hoped.

# Bread Loaf Hours

## Summer 2005

Switchboard  
(Front Desk)  
Ext. 2700  
M-Sat 8 a.m.-11 p.m.  
Sun 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Bookstore  
Ext. 2759  
M-F 8:30-12:30

Bread Loaf Office  
Ext. 5418  
M-F 8:00-12:15,  
1:30-5:00

Cornwall Clinic  
Ext. 2714  
Mon.-Fri. 8:00-2:00

Davison Library  
Ext. 2739  
Staff on duty 8:30 a.m.-  
10:00 p.m.



### Dining Hall Hours

Weekdays:  
Breakfast 7:30  
Lunch 12:45  
Dinner 6:00

Weekends:  
Breakfast 8:00-9:00  
Lunch 12:30-1:15  
Dinner 6:00-6:45

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# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 2

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

## Trivia

**What disaster befell the literary world on this day in 1613?**  
(see last article for details...)

## Schedule

**New Student Meeting**  
5:00, Theatre

**Ultimate**  
7:00, Field

**Romeo and Juliet Auditions**  
7:00, Theater

## Menu

Fried chicken or mushroom risotto cake with tomato-almond chutney, greens, and balsamic vinaigrette; buttermilk-scallion mashed potatoes; coconut cream pie.

## Weather

**Today**  
Scattered storms.  
85/64.

**Tomorrow**  
Partly cloudy.  
86/66.

**Friday**  
Scattered storms,  
getting cooler.  
83/53.

## Theatre Heats Up Tonight with *Romeo and Juliet* Auditions

Auditions will be held tonight starting at 7:00 for *Romeo and Juliet* (the play, not the roles – Brian figures those two parts are better left to the professionals), the staged reading of *Fortinbras*, and the end-of-summer Directing Workshop scenes. Everyone is welcome to audition; up to eighteen roles in *R&J*, including Paris, the Prince, and various concerned parents, will be played by students, faculty, staff, or other members of the Bread Loaf community, as will four or five parts in *Fortinbras*.

To audition for *Romeo and Juliet*, choose a short monologue from any Shakespearean play and be familiar with it (you don't need to memorize it). If you don't have time to choose a monologue, one will be provided for you at the audition. If you're only interested in *Fortinbras* or the directing scenes, a short monologue from any play will do just fine.

The Theatre crew is also looking for volunteers to work on the scenery, lighting, and costumes. If you're more interested in being behind the scenes rather than in them, drop by the Theatre tonight. (Unlike those auditioning to join the company, prospective tech crew members need not prepare a sample of their sawing or stitching technique.)

## Two To Do If You Are New

Jim Maddox and Emily Bartels invite students new to Bread Loaf or new to Vermont to a brief meeting at 5 in the Theatre. There, you'll receive all sorts of info to help you orient yourself – who's who on campus, where to go for what you need, how to begin a conversation with something besides "What courses are you taking?", what methods best repel the persistent black flies, and the like.

New students should also schedule a time to meet with either Jim or Emily individually. You can set up appointments with either Director in the Bread Loaf Office.

## Midd Night Ends at 11

Bread Loaf's porches are among our most treasured social hubs, and you may have spent last night on one of them, making new acquaintances, reminiscing about summers past, and posing the inescapable early-summer question, "What classes are you taking?" Starting tonight, though, we ask that such gatherings peaceably disperse before 11:00 or adjourn to the Barn. Kurt, Maggie, and Jen have been authorized to enforce this policy with whatever measures they deem necessary, including the cruel and unusual punishment of declaiming lengthy passages from *Ellen, or The Whisperings of an Old Pine* to send crowds fleeing in horror.

## To Bee, Or Not to Bee?

If you're looking for a little exercise, the answer's easy – head out to the field next to the Barn tonight after dinner for a friendly game or two of Ultimate Frisbee. If you want to audition for the play or have another commitment, don't worry – the Ultimate crowd will convene every Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon.

## Librarians Urge You to Check This Out

Tours of Middlebury's magnificent new Main Library will be offered tomorrow and Friday. If you're interested in learning more about its amazing resources (air conditioning, a 24-hour study area/café, and – oh, yeah – lots and lots of books), meet at the Information Desk in the main lobby at 4:00 either day.

## Some Get Better Reception Just Down 125

No, cell phones won't work unless you're much, much closer to civilization, but the senior class will still be happy to hear that an informal reception awaits them at Earthworm Manor tomorrow at 5. Jim, Emily, and the faculty will welcome you back, inquire how your year went, and assuage any incipient dread at the thought of leaving Bread Loaf by reminding you of the existence of the M.Litt. program.

## The Times (They Are A-Chargin')

If you subscribed to the daily *New York Times*, you can pick up your first copy from the Front Desk today. Until you pay for your subscription, however, Ed and the Front Desk staff are likely to mutter language that isn't fit to print when handing you your copy of all the news that is.

## What's Cookin' This Weekend

It's understandable that amid the litany of thrilling announcements last night (Seamus Heaney is coming! John's Pond is back! Arthur Little will be do-se-doing this Saturday!), off-campus students might have forgotten Jim's reminder that you and your families are cordially invited to a picnic supper this Friday at 6 on the West Lawn.

If you live off campus, please remember that while you are welcome to eat in the Dining Hall at other times, we cannot accommodate your children at mealtime; additionally, you must pay for extra meals at advance at the Front Desk.

## Square Deal

Francis Cram and his band return to the Barn this Saturday for the annual Square Dance. Get there promptly at 8 to receive the best instruction from caller Tom Bahre; early in the evening, he'll patiently explain the proper way to execute an "allemande left," but he expects you to be a fast study and will only glare if, later in the night, you dig for the oyster when you should have been diving for the clam.

## Ana Seeks Springs Fling

If anyone's driving to, or near, Saratoga Springs this weekend, Ana Silva would be happy to pay for gas in exchange for a ride. You can find her at the Front Desk.

## BLTN Begins

Dixie and Judy send word that the Bread Loaf Teacher Network will hold its first meeting tomorrow from 7-9 p.m. in Barn 1. All BLTN fellows are expected to attend.

## No Ph.D. Needed for AED

You might like to know that an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) will soon be mounted just inside the door of Treman. The Director's Assistants and several other people on campus have received formal training in the use of this device, but it's designed to be easy for anyone to use correctly in the event of an emergency.

## Classics You Don't Have to Read

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra visits Middlebury tomorrow night for its annual Pops Concert. The show starts at 7:30 in Middlebury's football stadium; admission is only \$10 with your student I.D.

## Top Ten Competition Global Warming

Entries for the *Crumb*'s Top Ten competition will arrive from dorms all over campus and from alumni around the world, and this year's competition is already heating up. The Men of Annex want to reclaim their crown from the Boys of Barn East, the Girls of Gilmore return a veteran squad, the Ladies of Larch and Women of Bloomfield look to follow up strong 2004 showings, and who knows what talent lurks in Tamarack, or Cherry, or the Inn, or among the Off-Campus Contingent? Don't be the dorm that doesn't get its act together until Week 3, by which point the leaders will be all but uncatchable in the standings; gather your friends or hallmates together, give yourselves a catchy name, and brainstorm ideas for the **Top Ten Signs You're A Little Too Excited About Being at Bread Loaf**. Your submissions are due by Friday at 10:00 a.m. to the *Crumb* Bum, who then uses HumorCheck and DelphicOracle 1.0 to determine the most worthy entries, which are then published for the masses in that day's issue.

## Trivia Contest Begins; Fire Off an Answer

The *Crumb*'s traditional trivia contest begins today. Look on the front page sidebar of each issue from now on for a question to answer, a picture to identify, or a quotation to place. The questions are designed to be as Google-proof as possible, because no one likes a cheater, but **you can always find clues buried in the day's headlines**.

Those who submit correct answers to *Crumb* Bum Jon Freeman via BreadNet, campus mail, or actual conversation receive no prize except the glory of seeing your name in print, although admirers may ask you to sign their copies of the *Crumb* for posterity.

# The Crumb

*The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English*

Volume 86, Number 3

Thursday, June 30, 2005

## Trivia

**Which early 20<sup>th</sup>-century American novelist, on his deathbed, told Shakespeare he was coming?**

## Schedule

**Library Tour**  
4:00, Campus

**Senior Reception**  
5, Earthworm/  
Treman

**BLTN**  
7-9, Barn 1

**Gilmore**  
9:00

## Menu

Crispy loin pork chop or spinach strudel with sun-dried tomato pesto and greens; spaetzles; gingerbread for dessert.

## Weather

**Today**  
Partly cloudy,  
87/65.

**Tomorrow**  
Scattered strong storms,  
85/63.

**Weekend**  
Partly cloudy,  
73/50.

## Seniors Swarm to Worm (If It's Warm)

Jim Maddox will be hosting the Senior Class reception this afternoon at 5, but exactly where he'll be hosting it is something of a game-time decision. If the weather continues to improve, he'll entertain the seniors at the royal residence, Earthworm Manor, which is just a short walk down 125. If he deems the Manor lawn too damp, the reception will be moved to Treman Cottage.

## Seniors Get Heads Up for Fri. Meeting

After the fun and frivolity of today's reception, the seniors will reconvene tomorrow afternoon at 5 in the Blue Parlor to begin Commencement plans. This includes nominating candidates for class president, selecting a graduation speaker and a hooder, and having their heads measured by the Director's Assistants. This curious practice, you will be told, is to ensure that your cap fits snugly at Commencement, but it's really to check whether a BL education has increased your cranial circumference sufficiently to warrant the awarding of a master's degree. (Those "grades" you worked so hard to earn are really determined by what your teacher rolls on an old 12-sided Dungeons & Dragons die about four hours into the end-of-summer faculty party. Thought you'd want to know.)

## Little House in the Big Woods

The Men of Gilmore host their weekly reading and get-together this evening. Most people come for the roaring bonfire, the friendly conversation, and an amusing selection from a faculty reader whose identity remains a closely guarded secret until tonight. New students, however, should take note: tonight is your first chance to hear an excerpt from Joseph Battell's *Ellen*, a text whose turgidity, impenetrability, and conceptual implausibility are unmatched in the literary world (except for – heaven help us all – Volume II of the same story).

To get to Gilmore, walk or ride down the central campus driveway past Larch and to the left of the Barn, take a right at the bottom of the hill, and head up the dirt road for about half a mile. Gilmore is easily spotted, both because it's painted Bread Loaf cream-and-green and because it's the first visible habitation you'll encounter.

Jonathan Davis reports seeing a "monster coyote" yesterday evening on the aforementioned dirt road, which makes the *Crumb* Bum reconsider his blithe earlier advice to "walk or ride" to tonight's reading.

## Strokes of Luck

Swimmers inconvenienced by the temporary closing of Middlebury's pool, take heart. Complimentary passes to an alternate pool are now available in the Bread Loaf office. There are hours for adult swims, open swims, family swims, and lap swims. If you're willing to pay for the privilege of having a lap pool available for your use at any time, you might be interested in the Vermont Sun Fitness Center in Middlebury. You can get an informational pamphlet from Elaine.

## Main Library Inspires Speechless Awe

Unless you want the librarians to shush you, try to restrain yourself from shouting in wonder when you tour Middlebury's amazing new library today or tomorrow at 4:00. You'll appreciate the comfortable seating, the varied kinds of study areas, the air conditioning, and the over 500,000 items in its collection (yes, despite the temporary removal to Davison of Susanne Wofford's reserve texts).

## Jolly Good Fellows

If you're a BLTN fellow (which nobody would deny), remember to come to tonight's meeting, from 7-9 in Barn 1. (And so say all of us.)

## On and Off Means Up and Out

See Andy Pederson. Isn't Andy nice? He chuckles and jokes and pours you a cup of coffee when you ask him for one. Yes, he is nice. But why are the lights in the Dining Hall flickering? Is this one of the periodic local "brown-outs"? No, it is not. Look! Andy is turning the lights on and off. What does this mean? Is he testing them to see if they work? No, he is not. He does not look happy, either. He looks like he would like us to leave. Why would he want us to leave? Is it because it is already 1:45? Is it because he needs to go to class? Yes. Do all waiters go to class? Yes, they do. Have we stayed in the Dining Hall a little too long? Perhaps we have. Oh, look. Here comes Andy towards our table. Why isn't Andy smiling any more? Why are his fists clenched? Is that steam coming out of his ears? Why is he taking away our cookies? Perhaps we should go now. Yes, we should.

## Whole Loaf Better Than Half

Remember that tomorrow's dinner is a picnic on the West Lawn, and that the entire Bread Loaf community, including off-campus students and their families, are cordially invited. Far from minding the throng that descends upon their beloved croquet pitch, the Theatre Staff actually welcomes the crowd, as they help trample the turf to the uniform height that malletteers of their caliber require to execute precise roquets, avoid double taps, and earn the rare privilege of a "continuation bisque."

## Assist Her, Carrey

If you come to campus for the cookout, you may be inclined to stick around for Friday night's feature film, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. *Sunshine* is the latest deliciously tangled logic puzzle/postmodern existential dilemma from the Stoppard-esque mind of screenwriter Charlie Kaufman. Jim Carrey plays Joel, a normal guy who decides to have the painful memories of his ex-girlfriend (Kate Winslet) erased. But something within him fights the process as it dissolves episode after episode, and the story, played out within and without Joel's mind, becomes by turns tender and poignant. If that description intrigues you, come to the Barn at 9 tomorrow to see the film. (And if you think it's an inaccurate or inadequate summary of the film, then, well, you try to describe a Charlie Kaufman storyline.)

## Square Dance ID's All People, Not All Places

Saturday night's Square Dance is a Vermont tradition and another can't-miss social event. The fun begins at 8 in the Barn. Be sure to bring your ID to be served at the Barn Bar and to keep your drinks within the "OK Corral," the roped-off area in front of the Barn. And don't be offended if there's no dance particular to your state; as much as we aim to please everybody all the time, the Texas Star and Virginia Reel just sound more like square dances than anything about "Connecticut" or "Utah" or "Hawaii."

## Mike: Moose, Seen A

Mike Lieser spotted the summer's first moose, on Route 100 just outside Warren, but does not receive the sixteen-dollar doubloon that Captain Ahab promised because a) a monomaniac that he be, Ahab claims he saw the moose first, and b) when he caught a glimpse of said moose, Mike sang out "Thar she blows!", an exclamation entirely unsuitable for the blowhole-less ruminant.

## Two Places to Have Your Talent Show

Signup sheets are up for the summer's Blue Parlor readings and the annual Coffeehouse talent show. Keep the two straight – the Blue Parlor's for you if you're interested in reading your own fiction, nonfiction, or poetry, while the Coffeehouse attracts pianists, singers, guitar players, and even a champion speller last year. Sign up at the Front Desk if you want to reserve a Blue Parlor slot for yourself; the Coffeehouse signup sheet will be on the bulletin board outside the Dining Hall.

## Order Heaney's Book to Avoid Seamus Shame

The *Crumb* Bum doubts you need to be reminded that Seamus Heaney will be delivering the Drew Lecture next Tuesday and reading from his poetry the following evening (there's just something about the phrase "Nobel Prize winner" that compels attention), but Jim Maddox would like to know just how many copies of Heaney's *Opened Ground: Selected Poems 1966-1996* the Bookstore should have on hand. If you'd like to buy a copy, sign up at the Front Desk.

## 125 Sets You Back \$125

Despite the *Crumb*'s warnings not to do so, motorists continue to park their vehicles along Route 125 instead of in the Barn lot. The side of 125 needs to serve as a bus stop and as emergency parking; besides, it's dangerous to park there. The Front Desk will be leaving notes on the windshields of malefactors; should the practice persist even then, the next thing you find affixed to your windshield might be a less friendly, more costly "note" from the Ripton police. Please keep all cars safely ensconced in the Barn lot from now on.

## Why the Bell Tolls

Hear the tolling of the bell – Bread Loaf bell!  
Oh, but what, you may inquire, does its daily sounding tell?  
First, to summon you to meals, it ten minutes prior peals,  
Then – away! to class you go,  
And its ringing means – oh, no! You are late!  
For it tolls when classes start,  
And when it's time to depart,  
(Though professors have pretended that discussion hasn't ended,  
'tis its fate)  
So the bell keeps us on time, and it's time to end my rhyme,  
Of the bell, bell, bell, bell,  
Bell, bell, bell –  
Of the singing and the ringing of the bell.

## Theatre Tries a Really Good Idea: Open Rehearsals

Alan and Brian remind you that all rehearsals are open to the entire community, so come and watch anytime, including the first *Romeo and Juliet* read-through tonight at 7. Future rehearsal schedules will be posted on the bulletin board outside the dining hall and on the call board just inside the theater back door. Arrive when you can and stay as long as you wish, but please make your entrances and exits unobtrusive rather than grand.

## BL T Sandwiched Into Busy Week

Those among us who have an eye for design to go with their way with words might consider submitting an entry to the annual Bread Loaf T-shirt competition. Your design must contain no more than three colors, be easy to silk-screen, and include the words "Bread Loaf School of English" or "BLSE." The winning designer receives a free T-shirt at the end of the summer. Hurry, though – processing and printing time means that we need all the contest entries by Monday.

## Magnificent Seven Answer the Call

Kurt Broderson, Hunter Gourley, Tilda Kapuya, Brian Kosnik, Patrice Connell, Todd Goddard, and Andy Pederson either already knew that the Globe Theatre burned down on June 29, 1613, or deduced as much from clues like "Theatre Heats Up" and "Global Warming" that were planted in yesterday's headlines.

Sara Blair seemed proud that she didn't even need to look at the clues to answer yesterday's trivia question, but she's, like, a *professor*. Aren't they paid to know things like this? Shouldn't we be wondering why purported Shakespearean scholars such as Bartels and Wofford didn't answer it? (If you ask either one why not, watch 'em cover their backs by blustering something along the lines of "Well, of course I knew that" or "I didn't want to show off, you know" or "I only answer the hard questions.") Well, let's see how the so-called Americanists do with today's stumper – if they, or you, need help, there are clues hiding in two of today's headlines.

## First Top Ten Entry's Marvel-ous

The first submission for this week's list of the Top Ten Signs You're A Little Too Excited About Being at Bread Loaf has already been received from someone who has identified herself only as "Super Girl." I urge Larch and Bloomfield and Gilmore and the rest of the dorms not to be alarmed or dispirited by the entry into the competition of a comic book heroine, one undoubtedly gifted with some kind of super-powers. Remember that not all super-powers are useful in all situations. I mean, Aquaman can swim, but if I get caught in a sandstorm, fat lot of good he's gonna do me. "Super Girl" might have X-ray vision or a really neat utility belt, but how would either of those help her come up with better ideas for the Top Ten list? So fret not – just send a bunch of ideas to Jon Freeman via BreadNet or campus mail by tomorrow morning, and he'll publish the best entries in tomorrow's *Crumb*.

(Now, Superman's another story, because if his ideas didn't do well, he could always reverse the rotation of the earth to turn back time – like he did in the first *Superman* movie when Lois Lane died in the earthquake? – and turn in all the answers that did better as his own ideas, with no one the wiser for his shenanigans.)

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 4

Friday, July 1, 2005

????

Name the Nobel Prize-winning author whose father was a Cleveland shipyard welder.

## What's Up

Friday  
Library Tour, 4:00

Senior Meeting, 5:00  
Blue Parlor

All-School Picnic  
6:00, West Lawn

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind  
9:00, Barn

Saturday  
Square Dance  
9-12, Barn

Sunday  
Blue Parlor  
Reading, 7:30

## Picnic Menu

Jamaican jerk chicken,  
hamburgers,  
veggie burgers,  
sausage and  
peppers, seven-bean salad, Greek  
salad, ice cream  
novelties.

## Weather

Today  
Strong storms,  
83/60.

Weekend  
Pleasant,  
high 70's/50's.

## Pope Springs Eternal

Bread Loaf is probably the only community disappointed that a film entitled *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* is not, in fact, about Alexander Pope, from whose poem "Eloisa to Abelard" the title is drawn. (For the record, this marks the second appearance of the Abelard and Heloise story in screenwriter Charlie Kaufman's oeuvre; it's also what John Cusack dramatizes in his puppet show in *Being John Malkovich*.) With its conflicts between memory and desire, will and instinct, science and the soul, *Eternal Sunshine* will leave you wanting to discuss its narrative and philosophical intricacies further. Never has a Bread Loaf film audience needed the SmartFood© (distributed for free by the Director's Assistants) to live up to its name more; you'll need every synapse you can spare, and we're betting you'll love every minute of it. Showtime is 9 in the Barn.

## Senior Meeting Involves Skullduggery

All seniors are reminded of their very important meeting today at 5 in the Blue Parlor. When one of the Director's Assistants measures your head, don't read too much into the results — phrenology has long been discredited by the scientific community, and it's only because the eccentric Joseph Battell, an adherent to that 19<sup>th</sup>-century fad, stipulated in his will that each Inn guest's head be measured that the practice continues today.) Instead, focus on the important business at hand — nominating candidates for class president and electing a Commencement speaker and hooder. (Please note that classes experiencing elections lasting more than four hours should seek help immediately.)

## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Everyone, we hope — on-campus students, off-campus residents, their families...tonight's picnic is open to the entire Bread Loaf community. We just hope that the unusually foreboding weather forecast proves, as is often the case, to be true for other areas of Vermont but not for Bread Loaf. If inclement weather does intervene, we'll truck the entire enterprise back into the Dining Hall.

## Dancing with the Texas Stars

If you're approaching Saturday's Square Dance with not a little trepidation, take a look around the Dining Hall. Do your fellow Bread Loafers look like the type of people who are familiar with the Grand Right and Left or instinctively know who among their eight-person square is, in fact, their Spanish Caballero? If anything, they're more likely to think that "digging for the oyster" involves getting sandy and wet, and that a Ladies' Chain is something you buy at Zales. As Jim Maddox puts it with characteristic succinctness, "No one at Bread Loaf knows how to square dance." If you come to the Barn at 9 tomorrow, however, by 12 we're pretty sure you'll be promenading like a pro.

Jen, Maggie, and Kurt remind you to bring an I.D. if you'd like to be served; snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will also be available.

## Blue a Stylish Sunday Option

The signup sheet to read your work at one of the Sunday Blue Parlor gatherings is located not at the Front Desk, as yesterday's *Crumb* would have you believe, but outside the Dining Hall. (The factotum responsible for that inaccuracy has been summarily sacked, and his name may no longer be spoken in the *Crumb*'s executive headquarters.) Some folks have already laid claim to future Sunday slots, but there are still plenty of spaces left; in fact, this Sunday's slate is still wide-open. Listen for an announcement during one of Sunday's meals to find out whether that night's reading is a go or a no-go.

## T-Shirt Contest Winner Receives Grant

Not a full scholarship, alas (as much as we value your contribution), but rather the Grant on the \$50 bill you'll receive if your design is chosen to adorn this year's Bread Loaf T-shirt. Monday is the final day to submit your design to the Front Desk. Use no more than three colors, and include the words "Bread Loaf School of English" or "BLSE" (but not the year - why limit yourself to 2005 when you can achieve sartorial immortality with a design that captures the essence of Bread Loaf itself?) Recommended subjects: Adirondack chairs, mountains, yellow/green color scheme, books. Not recommended: inebriated Sinclair Lewis, derogatory images of Meat Loaf School of Mathematics, earwigs.

## Elam Engenders Excitement

This summer we're fortunate to have five Monday readings by five fantastic faculty members. Professor Harry Elam will be the first to read, sharing excerpts from his memoirs at 7:30 on Monday in the Barn, with a short reception in Treman following. Everyone is invited.

## You Call That a Chorus?

OK, so a Greek chorus would have chanted its words in something approximating a melody — but you wouldn't call it a song, would you? And the Chorus in *Henry V*? Please. He doesn't sing, and he's, like, *just one guy*. If you're looking for a *real* chorus, consider joining the Bread Loaf Madrigalists, our summer singing group, who'll hold their first rehearsal on Monday at 5:00 in the Barn. "Madrigalists" is a bit of a misnomer, though — so if you delight not at the prospect of songs concerning milkmaids, swains, the inevitable forsaking of one's true love, and the words "fa la la," the group might still be for you. This year's distinctly modern repertoire includes selections from Carole King, Richard Rodgers, and the Human League, as well as the traditional Bread Loaf Fight Song. Get in touch with Jon Freeman if you have any further questions.

## If You're Looking for Direction

The amateur directors of Alan MacVey's Directing Workshop are still looking for willing actors with whom to hone their skills and work towards an end-of-summer performance of selected scenes. Sign up outside the Dining Hall if you're interested.

## OK to Get a Heaney Bit Excited

Seamus Heaney's arrival is still three days away, but already students are getting ahead in their work to make sure they're free for two big events next week. At 7:30 on Tuesday in the Theatre, Heaney will deliver the Elizabeth Drew Memorial Lecture on "The Rite Words in the Rote Order"; at the same time the following night, he'll read from his poetry in the Barn. Both events are free and open to the entire community, so pay no mind to eBay auctions purporting to offer "box seats" to either event or suspicious characters who sidle up to you in the Barn, whispering "Need two? Who needs two?" You'll probably want to arrive early to secure a good seat, but there's no need to pitch a tent outside the doors of the Theatre the night before, even though that strategy worked for snagging U2 tickets.

Students who followed directions and ordered copies of Heaney's *Selected Poems* will find their copies reserved in the Bookstore; the rest of the supply will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.

## New Library Stacks Up Favorably

The Middlebury College librarians will once again show you the wonders of their brand-spanking-new facility on the main campus today at 4:00. Simply present yourself at the lobby information desk if you're interested in the tour.

## Exit, Not Pursued by a Bear

Dave Emory provides this summer's first bear sighting — a specimen about the size of a large dog. Fortunately, the bear didn't take much notice of Dave's presence and ambled off towards a nearby culvert, enabling Dave alone to escape to tell the tale.

## Star Babysitters Sought

Sara Blair and Jonathan Freedman write: "BL faculty seeking fun-loving person to provide child care for our two children, Ben (8) and Miriam (5) (often seen careening through the Dining Hall and Inn). Knowledge of soccer, Pokemons, and princess stories a plus but not required. If you're interested in an occasional evening gig, please contact either one of us."

Sara's also curious whether there's anyone on campus who'd be interested in taking budding ornithologist Ben birdwatching, as he gets positively giddy at the sight of a pied-billed grebe.

Paul Muldoon writes that he is also seeking "occasional evening babysitters for angelic Asher Muldoon. Please contact Paul or Jean Hanff Korelitz, parents of aforementioned Asher, if interested."

## Close Encounters of the Bird Kind

A visibly shaken Chris Hutchison reports having survived a grouse attack on the Schoolhouse road earlier this week. Although Chris swears he had no malevolent intentions regarding the chicks of the grouse in question (nor, he protests, did he even notice them), the mother grouse interpreted his presence differently, pecking Chris in the back and beating him with her wings as he beat a very hasty retreat. Chris promises that, as Tybalt, he will face Romeo in their climactic duel with far more mettle.

## Experiencing Technical Difficulties

Several people have reported problems with maintaining a consistently strong wireless connection on the new network. Often the difficulties are because Middlebury did not anticipate quite such heavy use, but rest assured that they will be correcting the problem by Tuesday. Some suggestions for dealing with future problems: Moving closer to the wireless unit itself will often help reception, and wireless cards do vary in quality. If you brought a computer from your school, it may be configured only for that school's wireless network. Try rebooting your computer if you are having problems getting on Breadnet or the Internet, and please please please log out and turn computers off when not using them over the holiday weekend (or anytime, for that matter). The problem should be resolved soon.

## Voice of the Shuttle

If the Bread Loaf van is full on the day you'd like to head downtown, or if its schedule doesn't mesh well with yours, you might consider Middlebury's new Snow Bowl Shuttle, which will make stops at Bread Loaf on its way between the Snow Bowl and the College. Look for the shuttle bus outside the Inn around 10:55, 12:10, 1:25, 2:40, and 3:55; departures from downtown are at 11:40, 12:55, 2:10, and 3:25. If you have any further questions, call 388-1946.

## Independence Daze

As befits a Utopia in which students read great works of literature from around the globe, Bread Loaf does not officially observe the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday (although you might join in a patriotic song or two at dinner on Monday). Classes will meet as scheduled on Monday.

If you'd like to celebrate the Fourth more traditionally, you might consider the array of local festivities on tap this weekend. Brandon (just south on Route 7) hosts the self-proclaimed Largest Independence Day Parade in Vermont tomorrow at 1, with fireworks at dusk. On Sunday, Bristol (north on Route 116) holds its fireworks festival at dusk (great views from the high school parking lot). On Monday, Bristol's ever-popular Outhouse Race starts at 9, followed by (not to be outdone by the folks down in Brandon) the self-proclaimed Best Fourth of July Parade in Vermont at 10:30.

## Earnest Guessers Sometimes Wrong

Several people leapt to the conclusion that Ernest Hemingway was the answer to yesterday's trivia question. The headline "Why the Bell Tolls" alas, was a red herring; a couple of other articles hinted that it was actually Theodore Dreiser who said, "Shakespeare, I come!" on his deathbed. (He's also the only author I know who's ever gotten away with beginning a sentence with "the" followed by a comma. I kid you not — check out Chapter 17 of *Sister Carrie*.) Kudos (congratulations, not the tasty soft granola bars) to Andy Pederson, Kurt Broderson, Mark Elberfeld, Robbie Harold, Lucy Maddox and Brian Kosnik for answering correctly.

## War of the Worlds: Santa Fe Joins Top Ten Fray

Looks like one of the Top Ten Signs You're A Little Too Excited About Being Back at Bread Loaf is being so excited that you forget to submit to the Top Ten list. A few contingents — two familiar forces, one delegation from Santa Fe, and one mysterious entrant identifying himself/herself/themselves only as "Virginia" (a Woolf fan? The *entire state?*) — rallied to the cause and chimed in.

### Top Ten (Plus a Few) Signs You're A Little Too Excited About Being Back at Bread Loaf

14. You terminated all outside friendships, your lease, and your cell phone plan months ago. (Santa Fe Fighting Llamas)
13. You've been starting bonfires in the living room and reading poems. (Boys of Barn East)
12. On the way into your first poetry writing class, you chest bump Paul Muldoon. (SFFL)
11. Your Robert Frost tattoo has long since healed. (BOBE)
10. You know the deerflies by name. (Director's Assistants)
9. You joined waitstaff just to get to campus one day early. (BOBE)
8. Upon your first entry to the dining hall, you engage Headwaiter Russell Silverman in a passionate kiss. (SFFL)
7. You think that pine tree's talking to YOU. (DA)
6. You just had your first baby. Its middle name is Piney. (Virginia)
5. You used "Ellen" in your AP English class. (BOBE)
4. You call Elaine Lathrop "Mommy." (V)
3. You sit around Bread Loaf Santa Fe, trying to come up with entries for the Top Ten in Vermont. (SFFL)
2. You brought your own codpiece for the *Romeo and Juliet* auditions. (SFFL)
1. You did all of your reading in advance... well... let's not get too carried away here. (SFFL)

# The AmeriCrumb

*The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English*

Volume 86, Number 5

Monday, July 4, 2005

????

*What  
seminal work  
was  
published  
150 years  
ago today?*

**What's Up**

**Madrigalists**  
5:00, Barn

**Harry Elam  
Reading**  
7:30, Barn

**Reception**  
Afterwards,  
Treman

**Menu**

Grilled chicken  
tuscan panzanella  
or barley risotto  
cakes with  
vegetables and  
spicy apricot  
glaze; grilled  
summer  
vegetables;  
dessert's a  
surprise.

**Weather**

**Today**  
Sunny.  
88/64.

**Tomorrow**  
Chance of storms.  
84/64.

**Wednesday**  
Scattered storms.  
78/58.

## All Mountain, Valley, Dell Aware of Elam's Reading

The Monday evening faculty readings are a treasured Bread Loaf tradition, and we are fortunate to have Harry Elam presenting the first of this summer's five readings tonight at 7:30 in the Barn. He'll share an excerpt from a work that he calls "a memoir and a love story," and an informal reception will follow in Treman. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Alas, Kalli Won't Sing Solo

The Madrigalists will somehow have to do without his dulcet tones once again this year, but we'll manage. Anyone with the slightest interest in singing – no matter if the only venues in which you've performed are your shower and your car – is welcome to join us at 5 in the Barn, where we'll rehearse the infamous Bread Loaf Fight Song and learn about the rest of our summer repertoire.

## New Jersey Ideas Seem Great

We've received some impressive designs for this year's Bread Loaf T-shirt, but there's still time to submit. So if the Muse descended this weekend and whispered a brilliant and original concept, get cracking – the deadline is today. Remember that your design should involve no more than three colors, be easily printable, and incorporate the words "Bread Loaf School of English" or "BLSE."

## Heaney Visit This Week's Main Event

Those of you who skipped the opening ceremony, don't read the *Crumb* regularly, and are oblivious to the general buzz of excitement pervading the campus these days will be thrilled to find out that Seamus Heaney, the recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize in Literature, will visit Bread Loaf and provide two evenings of enlightening, entertaining talk. Tomorrow at 7:30 in the Theatre, Heaney will deliver this year's Elizabeth Drew Memorial Lecture, "The Rite Words in the Rote Order," and on Wednesday at 7:30 in the Barn, he'll read from his poetry. Receptions in the Barn will follow both events, and copies of Heaney's translation of *Beowulf* are still available in the Bookstore. Heaney's visit may prove the highlight of the summer, although Jim and the Director's Assistants are feverishly laboring to come up with something (revivifying Frost, presenting graduating seniors with complimentary First Folios as well as diplomas, establishing Starbucks franchise in Tea Cabin) that won't make the last four weeks seem like an anticlimax.

## I'll Annoy Few with Photo Schedule, Promises Brown

This week Ed Brown will take a series of photographs for posterity, for the Bread Loaf archives, and for you to take home if you like. Tomorrow before lunch is the Big Deal – the All-School Photograph in the meadow across 125 from the Inn – followed by the faculty picture after lunch. On Wednesday he'll take the Senior Class picture before lunch and the staff photo afterwards, and on Thursday it's the Waitstaff's turn.

## Do You Pen Sylvan Yarns, Poetry, Memoir, Short Stories?

If so, you'd probably enjoy the opportunity to share your work with the community at one of the Sunday evening Blue Parlor readings. Last night's reading was a rousing success. There are still plenty of open slots available on future Sundays; you can sign up outside the Dining Hall.

## Say "Oh, Hi!" Over Game of Soccer

Anyone interested in kicking around a soccer ball, meeting some new friends, and perhaps putting together a quick pick-up game should meet at the laundry building tomorrow or Thursday at 7:00. No experience necessary.

## For Fun Tennis, See Bulletin Board

Now that the clay has been rolled, the lines nailed down, the nets strung, and that distracting other tournament in England completed, preparations for Wimbleloaf can begin in earnest. Sign yourself up as a singles player, or find a friend of either gender and form a men's, women's, or mixed doubles team.

## Florid Arbor of Frost Farm Awaits

The weather didn't exactly cooperate with last Friday's planned all-campus picnic, but the spirit of the event remained as undampened as the diners themselves, thanks to the efforts of Chef Jim Logan and his staff. Perhaps the weather will be more cooperative for this Saturday's Frost Picnic at the Homer Noble Farm, where you can take a tour of the Frost Cabin with Jen Hansum or Maggie Favretti or just stroll around the grounds in search of birches bending left and right, dimpled spiders fat and white, belilaced cellar holes, or other inspiring Frostian sights.

## Time Warp Dance Features Kinetic Cuts

You'll party like it's 1999 – and like it's 1957, and like it's 1982, and like it's 2003 – at this weekend's Barn dance, the Time Warp. It's the only dance that comes with its own teleological imperative; we start at 9:00 with "Rock Around the Clock" and, over the next four hours, follow time's inexorable march through the Twist, the Mashed Potato, the Hustle, the disco, the moonwalk, the mosh pit, and the Macarena, until, at 1:00, we're back in the present day. Given these chronological constraints, we are sorry that we cannot accommodate Emily Bartels' request for "more Perry Como." Emily will have to wait until another dance to hear her favorite crooner on the playlist – possibly the "Hell Freezes Over" dance, or the "Pigs Fly Prom."

## Coffeehouse Good for Watching Ton of Talent

Sure, writers can strut their stuff in the Blue Parlor, and dancers can bust impressive moves to the envy of their peers every week in the Barn, but what to do if you possess a decidedly less conventional talent – plate-spinning, fire-eating, or playing jazz flute? The answer is the Coffeehouse, an enjoyable agglomeration of just such kinds of ability that would otherwise go lamentably unrecognized. It'll take place next Friday night in the Barn, and a signup sheet is posted outside the Dining Hall. You can talk to coordinator Melissa Roja if you have any questions.

## Computer Correction Causes Minimal Misery

Middlebury College officials want everyone to know (but not to worry) that the computer system will go down for routine maintenance tomorrow at 12:45 for 15 minutes to an hour. You'll still be able to work on the campus computers or your laptop, there's no need to turn them off, and no damage will be done to them. Wireless users will simply have to reboot their computers after the changes are made.

## How I Ease Tension

Yoga classes fortuitously arrive on campus just as those first essay deadlines loom and secondary reading begins to pile up. All classes are led by community members who are either former yoga instructors or who have no yoga teacher training (which means you are more than welcome to lead a session if you'd like). Please help us gauge general demand by signing up outside the Dining Hall for the particular times you can attend; the tentative schedule is Monday and Wednesday from 5-6, Friday from 2-3:15, and Sunday morning from 10-11:15. All classes will be held in Barn 2.

## You Talk to Ed if You're Missing These

Several course texts that were not available at the beginning of the summer (*The Big Sleep* and Kafka's *Complete Stories* for Sara Blair's class, *Delights & Shadows* for David Huddle's, and a text described only as "John Elder's wildflower book") have now arrived in the Bookstore.

## If You Knew Your Class Wasn't Right For You

If you're having second thoughts about that three-course load or really want to make any other changes to your official schedule, you should know that the deadline for adding or dropping courses is Wednesday at 5:00. Talk to Elaine if you need to make a switch or you have any questions.

## Broderson's Aura Gone? Hardly.

Although he waited until the last minute to submit his correct answer, Kurt Broderson stayed perfect for the summer and kept pace with Team Pederson/Kaplan in the summer's trivia competition by correctly identifying Toni Morrison as the author whose father was a Cleveland shipyard welder. Patrice Connell and Liz Bedell also chimed in with the right answer. You might not need any clues to identify today's mystery work (doing the math should narrow the possibilities down considerably), but one headline contains some help.

## Awfully Quiet in de Annex

For the first time in recent memory, the Men of Annex did not submit entries to the *Crumb* Top Ten competition, resulting in the lamentable spectacle of the list being dominated by a Santa Fe contingent calling themselves the Fighting Llamas. Now, far be it for me to discourage submissions from other campuses, but Bread Loaf Vermont – or at least the Bread Loaf Vermont I used to know – is a proud and spirited community, one that will not suffer humiliation at the hands of an upstart group from Santa Fe. Nor would the mighty moose that trundle through our majestic woods ever tolerate the sudden invasion of their territory by a herd of noisome llamas. So gather your dorm together and show those margarita-swilling rascals what you're made of.

What's that, you ask? A category? Ah, yes, that small matter. This week's topic is the **Top Ten Reasons Robert Frost's Ghost Still Haunts the Vermont Campus**. Get your entries to the *Crumb* Bum by Friday morning for inclusion in that day's issue.

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 6

Tuesday, July 5, 2005

????

*On this date in 1880, which 23-year-old writer quit his job at the Edison Telephone Company in order to focus on his craft?*

## What's Up

All-School Photo  
12:30, West Lawn

Soccer  
7:00, Field

Drew Lecture:  
Seamus Heaney,  
The Rite Words  
in the Rote  
Order"  
7:30, Theatre

Reception  
Afterwards  
Barn

## Menu

Baked salmon  
Brittany with  
toasted almond &  
saffron pilaf or  
artichoke-white  
bean-vegetable  
casserole gratin;  
flan for dessert.

## Weather

Today  
Scattered storms,  
85/67.  
Tomorrow  
Thunderstorms,  
75/60.  
Thursday  
Scattered storms,  
74/53.

## Drew Draws Doves: Heaney Lectures on Rites and Rotes Tonight

Only if you've been under a rock or attempting to commune with one of the local pines since your arrival will you need to be told that Seamus Heaney will deliver tonight's Elizabeth Drew Memorial Lecture, "The Rite Words in the Rote Order," at 7:30 in the Burgess Meredith Little Theatre. In the wider world, Mr. Heaney is best known for having been awarded the 1995 Nobel Prize in Literature and as the author of the volumes of poetry *Death of a Naturalist* (1966), *Door into the Dark* (1969), *Wintering Out* (1972), *North* (1975), *Field Work* (1979), *Station Island* (1984), *The Haw Lantern* (1987), *Seeing Things* (1991), *The Spirit Level* (1996), and *Electric Light* (2001); for his acclaimed translations of *Beowulf* and *Antigone*; and for his teaching and lecturing at Queen's University, Harvard University, and Oxford University. Before this week, Mr. Heaney may have been most appreciated at Bread Loaf for having been the first to dub his then-student Paul Muldoon "the real thing" — but by delivering the Drew Lecture tonight and reading his poetry tomorrow evening, he takes his rightful place alongside Frost and Cather and others in the pantheon of literary giants to have visited Bread Loaf. The next two nights promise to be ones that we will fondly remember for years to come, and when future Directors cite Mr. Heaney's visit as part of the proud history of Bread Loaf, future generations of Bread Loaf students will enviously think how fortunate we were.

## Ed's Photos Just a Lot of BLers

If you're reading this before lunch, you're probably missing the All-School Photo, which Ed will take at about 12:30 on the West Lawn (not, as previously mentioned in these pages, across 125 from the Inn). Hie thee over there to make sure you're included in this year's shot.

Tomorrow, Ed will take the senior class picture before lunch on the Inn porch and the staff photo after the meal; on Thursday, the waiters pose before lunch and the faculty afterwards.

## The Treman Show

Some of you have received invitations to tomorrow afternoon's Treman reception. There, dressed somewhat more snappily than is the daily custom here, you'll mingle with faculty and fellow students, sip soft drinks or cocktails, and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cashews that meet the exacting standards of our legume quality control officer, Jim Maddox.

If you didn't receive such an invitation, don't view this week's attendees as the Cassios to your Iago and start hatching villainous plots; every student will, before the end of the summer, be included in one Wednesday gathering or another. Unless, of course, you are the one egregious admissions mistake Jim spoke of in his opening remarks, in which case you will receive no invitation, be airbrushed out of the official school photo, and spend the rest of the summer wondering why everyone else gets to live in big dorms while you're relegated to the Tea Cabin, where Leo won't even un-board the windows or empty the chamber pot.

## The Cellar House Rules

Jim Maddox reminds all Bread Loafers that "in times of heavy computer use (usually in heavy paper-writing season), please follow these rules dictated by common sense and courtesy. Students and faculty always have first priority for the use of computers. Please, at such crowded times, don't use the Computer Center computers for non-course-related activities. Many thanks." Guess this means no more trolling for dates in the Metaphysical Poets chatroom, downloading provocative photos of William Dean Howells, or playing online Name That Sonnet! For the *Crumb* Bum.

## Network News

A reminder that the computer system will be down today for routine maintenance from 12:45 until 1:45 or so. Since you'll most likely be at lunch during this time, and since the only attendant inconvenience is that wireless users will have to reboot their computers after the changes are made, you probably won't notice a thing.

## Receive Backhand Compliments

Signup sheets for Wimbleloaf 2005 have been posted outside the Dining Hall. Players of all abilities are encouraged to participate in singles and/or doubles; the tournament draws will be posted by early next week.

## Waiting for Good Dough

Anticipation is an ideal quality in a waiter - always ready with the pot of steaming coffee just as you need a refill, quick to replace the remains of your entrée with a sweet dessert. Steve Suomi has anticipated, five weeks in advance, that he'll need a substitute for the graduation banquet. Steve did not provide details regarding the compensation he's offering to the kind soul who takes his place, so theoretically, any price — a serenade outside your window, an ice sculpture in your likeness for the Wednesday you go to Treman, a cycle of sonnets in the Petrarchan mode — is yours for the asking.

## Emily Will Give You the Third Degree

If you're currently pursuing your M.Litt. degree or are intrigued by the prospect of continuing on toward one, please come to a meeting at 2:30 on Friday in the Blue Parlor, where Emily Bartels will dispense valuable information about the program and answer your questions. She'll probably remind you that in the early years of the program, many students, having confused "M.Litt." with a certain notorious homophonic cousin, dressed in black, jettisoned their girlfriends, slew their stepfather's most trusted counselor, traveled to England with two school friends, consulted part-time in the gravedigging industry, and finally embarked on a murderous and suicidal killing spree, all under the mistaken assumption that such behavior was required for the degree. (Aside from traveling to England with school friends, none of the preceding actions are common components of a Bread Loaf M.Litt. course of study.)

## **Disaster of Kosnik Proportions**

Beloved Bread Loaf alum Brian Kosnik was mistakenly omitted from yesterday's list of those who correctly guessed Toni Morrison as the answer to Friday's trivia question. The *Crumb* Bum sincerely regrets the omission and hopes that the summary dismissal of a randomly selected scapegoat from among the *Crumb*'s stable of writers, the privilege of having an entire article dedicated solely to Brian, and the traditional conciliatory fruit basket from Harry & David's will put things right.

## **Get Down with O.C.C.**

In summers past, the Off-Campus Contingent (OCC) has been a Top Ten force to be reckoned with, and Eric Gamble seems determined to harness the collective talent scattered across the lower Champlain Valley once again, writing the following: "Though we are cast throughout a 30 mile radius into towns like Rochester, Granville, East Middlebury, Middlebury, Ripton, Hancock, and (for the posh) waterfront cottages at Lake Dunmore, it is time that the "OFF-CAMPUS (WITH OFFSPRING)" come together formally as a collective, particularly since that Santa Fe Fighting Llamas contingent jumped out to an early lead after week one.

"We are a formidable group, with whom those who have never raised children do not want to mess... We want to play trivia, and enter the Top Ten contest, and perhaps even do a little mid-week socializing with other amigos who cannot find a babysitter.

"How about our first "organization" meeting on **Wednesday night at 6:30pm**, one hour before Seamus Heaney reads his poetry? We will meet in the grass between the Theatre and Larch, so bring your bug spray. All those off-campus folks (including faculty) are invited to attend, particularly those with children. Any parents living in the dorms and desperately missing their children are also invited to defect and join our ranks. The only requirements are that you do everything possible to also be a big part of the Bread Loaf community (attend lectures, dances, etc.) during the next five weeks, and perhaps volunteer to offer-up your off-campus digs for a night of fun for the entire group."

## **This Time, Take Road More Traveled**

Just before you reach the Robert Frost National Historic Site Picnic Area and Informational Display on 125, you'll notice a dirt road on the right that diverges into a yellow wood and eventually bends in the undergrowth. Ignore the poet's normally sage advice on Saturday night; take the same dirt road everyone is taking, because that's the only way you'll reach the Frost Picnic, our second attempt at a cook-out this summer. A picnic supper will be served starting at 6, but tours of the Frost Cabin will be given starting at 5:30 or so, so get there early to get a firsthand glimpse of the muffin pans and shaving cream that inspired some of Frost's lesser-known poems.

## **Trivia Spawns Major Barbarous Competition**

People are beginning to take this thing seriously – forming vast strategic alliances at the large lunch tables to deduce the correct trivia answer, formulating hypotheses that are then rigorously verified on the Internet, groaning with dismay at being told an answer is erroneous. A barrage of correct answers to yesterday's trivia question descended upon the unsuspecting *Crumb* Bum – from Kelli Reno, Megan Scheck, Kurt Broderson & the other Assistants, Team Pederson/Kaplan, Mark Eberfeldt, Jim and Lucy Maddox, Sandy Brutkoski, and Ruth Miller. Perhaps this means that I should make the clues more difficult to find? Perhaps...but not today, when this crack bunch should make quick work of the question. E-mail Jon Freeman if you think you know who got the call from the Muse while working the phones.

## **Something There Is That Doesn't Love a Wail**

Unless one of your dormmates had an exceptionally fortunate first week, any strange moans or unexplained noises you hear at night may well be the restless spirit of Bread Loaf's poet laureate, Robert Frost. If you find out what he's up to, you'll want to tell the *Crumb* Bum before it publishes the **Top Ten Reasons Robert Frost's Ghost Still Haunts the Bread Loaf Campus** on Friday.

## **Warped Imagination**

Saturday's dance is the Time Warp, where we move from the dawn of the rock era to the present day over the course of four hours. Because the music proceeds in strict chronological order, the *Crumb* Bum has often noticed himself reliving, in extremely compressed form, his entire life through the associations engendered by the thumping dance music. We hope that the memories thus evoked are pleasant rather than painful, but as you'll see below, we can make no guarantees.

**1955 ("Rock Around the Clock"):** *Crumb* Bum not yet alive. Then-teenage parents of *Crumb* Bum presumably involved in activities typical of era: sock-hops, hot-rods, poodle skirts, generally nonthreatening conformist behavior.

**1969 ("Magic Carpet Ride"):** *Crumb* Bum evolves from glint in parents' eyes to actual biological presence, though anyone who knows *Crumb* Bum's parents realizes it unlikely that either was familiar with music of Steppenwolf, nor is it remotely imaginable that conception of *Crumb* Bum was related in any way with particular kind of "magic carpet rides" typical of era and referenced in song's lyrics.

**1977 ("Stayin' Alive"):** *Crumb* Bum's joyful memories of first stirrings of individuated musical "taste" tempered by regret at selecting Bee Gees as first locus of "admiration."

**1982-5 ("Total Eclipse of the Heart," "Crazy For You," et. al.):** Junior high school. Uninterrupted sequence of awkward, fumbling mental attempts to characterize one slow dance with (choose one: J. Buckman, A. Ledewitz, S. Klimkosky) as constituting legitimate and marriage-bound "relationship."

**1992 ("I'm Too Sexy"):** Public denunciation of said melody in attempt to bolster credentials as sophisticate intellectual problematized by nearly simultaneous purchase of said melody on CD single.

**1999 ("Ray of Light"):** Last vestiges of hope that *Crumb* Bum is still "young" and "hip" and "with it" shattered when seventh grade students howling with derisive laughter inform *Crumb* Bum that the accepted phrase is "da bomb," not "the bomb."

## **"Loews Barn 6" Open for Business**

Although we can't offer cup holders, stadium seating, or free refills on your 96-oz. Mello Yello, you're welcome to use Barn classrooms 2 through 6 to screen films ostensibly relevant to your summer studies. Each classroom comes equipped with a TV and DVD player. (Barn 1 may be used only for evening screenings arranged by your professor.) You may want to check availability or reserve a room in advance on the sheets outside Elaine's office. As a comparative, cross-genre analysis of a work of literature and a related film is always considered a legitimate paper topic, may the *Crumb* suggest the following pairings?

Epic Homecomings

Fictions of Finance

The Poetry of Robert Frost

American Family Drama

Shakespeare, Body, and Performance\*

*Cast Away or Snoopy Come Home*

*Wall Street*

*Grumpy Old Men*

*The Nutty Professor II: The Klumps*

*Othell-O!*

*The Very, VERY Merry Wives of Windsor*

*Love's Labor's Long*

*The Comedy of Eros*

Note: *Crumb* Bum may have misunderstood the nature of this course.

# The Crumbedy of Errors

"If 't be summer news, smile to 't before." *Cymbeline, III.iv.*

Volume 86, Number 7

Wednesday, July 6, 2005

????

How many of  
Shakespeare's  
plays are set  
entirely or partly  
in Italy?

What's Up

Staff Photo  
1:30, Inn Porch

Director's  
Reception  
5:00, Treman

Yoga  
5:00, Barn 2

Off-Campus  
Meeting  
6:30, East Lawn

Seamus Heaney  
Poetry Reading  
7:30, Barn,  
reception after.

Menu

"Item. A leg of lamb, 2s. 2d. Item, mint sauce, 4d. Item, spanakopita, 1s. 6d. Item, stuffed grape leaves, ob. Item, Water, two pitchers, 1s. 3d. Item, Bread pudding, ob."

Weather

Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks!  
rage! blow!  
Thunderbolts.  
Sing my white head! And thou, all-shaking thunder,  
Smite flat the thick rotundity o' the world!  
(Translation:  
stormy the rest of the week, highs in the 70's.)

## Heaney Reading Creates Excited Crowds

### HEANEY THE POET

I dreamt to-night that I did feast with Maddox,  
But rain unlucky damps my fantasy:  
I have a will to wander forth of doors,  
Yes, something leads me forth. *Enter Citizens.*  
First Citizen What is your name?  
Second Citizen Whither are you going?  
Third Citizen Are you going to read us some more poems?  
Second Citizen Ay, and Drew-ly, you were best.  
HEANEY THE POET What is my name? Whither am I going? Directly, I am reading in the Barn tonight at 7:30.  
First Citizen As a friend or an enemy?

HEANEY THE POET As a friend, you twit.

Second Citizen That matter is answered directly.  
Third Citizen Your name, sir, truly.

HEANEY THE POET I am Heaney the poet, I am Heaney the poet.

All Citizens Hear him for his great verses, hear him for his great verses.

HEANEY THE POET I am not Cinna the conspirator.

Fourth Citizen (long pause) Who said you were? (*To the others*) Pluck but a signature out of him for my copy of his book, and turn him going.

Third Citizen Hear him, hear him! Come, friends ho! from Gilmore, from Tamarack; come all: some from Bloomfield, and some from Annex; some from Maple, too: away, go!

## BLTN Fellows Not Poor Players

To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,  
Creep at your petty pace, or stroll, or sprint,  
To the next meeting of BLTN. Out, out, to Barn 1!  
From 7 to 9 (two hours upon the stage)  
And then we'll meet no more until next week.

## I'll Speak to Thee; I'll Call Thee M.Litt.

LORD POLONIUS What is't, Ophelia, Emily hath said to you?

OPHELIA So please you, something touching the Loaf M.Litt.

LORD POLONIUS Marry, well bethought:  
'Tis told me, you hath very oft of late  
Ask'd what an M.Litt. is; and you yourself  
Have with your studies been most free and bounteous.  
If it be so, as so 'tis put on me, I must tell you,  
You might not understand Bread Loaf so clearly  
As it behoves my daughter and your honour.  
Dost thou know what one may do after an M.A.?  
OPHELIA Emily hath, my lord, of late made many tenders  
Of a meeting Friday at 2:30 to me.

## Chef Jim Becomes Merchant of Venison

MOROCCO O hell! what have we here?  
An invitation, within whose text I spy  
A picnic this weekend! I'll read the writing.  
(Reads) All that sizzles is not meat;

Vegetarians can eat

**Lots on the menu Saturday**

**Which dinner happens, by the way**  
At Frost's farm, where you might behold  
A cookout like the ones of old:  
Tasty buns hot dogs enfold.  
Veggie burgers cooked to gold,  
Ketchup red and mustard bold,  
(Though I've yet to be firmly told  
What will be served; your horses, hold.)  
Maybe they'll have ice cream cold!  
Cold, yum yum; when hunger's lost:  
Then, farewell, heat, and welcome, Frost!  
Portia, adieu. I'm done with gabbin'.  
Let's take a tour of the Frost Cabin.  
Exit with his train. Flourish of cornets.

## Weekly Get-Together in our Little Hamlet

OPHELIA [Sings] He bore him barefaced towards the beer;  
Hey, David, hi, Jane, hello, Bobby;  
And though the sky rain'd many a tear,  
The guests came through the Inn Lobby,  
Enjoyed a Director's Reception here,  
On the porch and Blue Parlor --

Fare you well, my dove!

LAERTES Hadst thou thy wits, and didst persuade revenge,  
It could not move me thus from beside this bowl of pretzels.  
Sorry.

OPHELIA [Sings] You must throw refreshments a-down a-down,  
And toss some more a-down-a.

O, how the cheese becomes it!

LAERTES [Eating unidentified hors d'oeuvre] This something's more than batter.

OPHELIA There's rosemary in it, that's for remembrance;  
pray,

love, remember: and there is pansies; that's for thoughts.

LAERTES A recipe of madness.

OPHELIA There's fennel for you, and crackers, too: there's wine  
for you; and here's some for me: O you must drink your wine  
with  
a difference. There's John Elder: I would give you  
some cashews, but they vanished all when Jim Maddox  
came—[Sings] Director's Receptions are all my joy.

## Claudius Insists He Was Framed

HAMLET Look here, upon this picture, and on this,  
See, what a grace is seated in the Staff,  
**Whose picture Ed will take just after lunch;**  
Kurt, Maggie, Jen; Elaine and Judy J.,  
The Theatre crew, the Crumb Bum, the Front Desk;  
A combination and a group indeed,  
Where every god did seem to set his seal,  
To give the Loaf assurance of their skills:  
This is the Bread Loaf staff. Look you now, what follows  
**Tomorrow, after lunch, in the next photo:**  
Here is the faculty; like a beloved dear,  
Blessing their wholesome students. Have you eyes?  
Could you ever this fair mountain leave to learn,  
To batten on some moor? Ha! have you eyes?

## Sr. Class President Shall NOT Be King Hereafter

First Witch When shall seniors meet again?  
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?  
Second Witch When their Thursday class is done,  
When the battle's lost and won.  
Third Witch That will be ere the set of sun.  
First Witch At five. The place?  
Second Witch The Parlor Blue.  
Third Witch There they will elect a new  
Class President; at graduation,  
He or she gives an oration!

## Yoga Class Again Courting Enthusiasts

### KING HENRY V

Once more unto the Downward Facing Dog, dear friends, once more;  
If you feel, from your work in English, dead.  
In peace there's nothing so becomes a man  
As modest stillness and humility:  
So go to yoga class today at 5,  
And imitate position of the Cobra;  
Don't stiffen the sinews; summon up the blood,  
Allow fair nature to o'ercome hard-favour'd rage;  
Then bend the leg a terrible aspect;  
Let flow through the chakras of the mind  
Until your feet doth rise above your head  
As fearfully as doth a galled rock  
O'erhang and jutty his confounded base.  
Unclench your back and stretch the nostril wide,  
Hold full the breath and bend up every spirit  
To its full height. On, on, you noblest English scholars!  
Be copy now to men of stiffer bones,  
And teach them how to relax.  
For there is none of you so mean and stressed,  
That hath not some serenity in your eyes.  
I see you stretched like greyhounds in the slips,  
Straining upon the start. The class's afoot:  
Follow your spirit, and upon this charge  
Cry 'God for an hour's workout, that felt good!'

## Tempestuous Applause for Award Winners

*Tomorrow night, at Awards Banquet Dinner. Enter PROFESSPERO to the Faculty Table, invincible. Enter several strange Waiters, bringing in a banquet; they dance about it with gentle actions of salutation and inquiry regarding the vegetarian option; and, inviting the Teachers, &c. to eat, they depart.*  
*Thunder and lightning. Enter MADDOX; claps his hands upon the podium; and, with a quaint device and much clanging and scraping from the dish room, the banquet vanishes. MADDOX bestows upon the assembled worthy guests those Named Scholarships provided through the generosity of friends of Bread Loaf and awards several named Chairs to faculty members for their outstanding Service. Exeunt.*

## Rebecca Measures Up

ABRODERSON Do you call, sir?  
Provost Sirrah, here's a fellow will help you on's Friday when you show *Rebecca*. Let him abide here with you.  
ABRODERSON Fie upon him! He will find out what it's about and discredit its mystery.  
POMPEY Pray, sir, by your good favour,--for surely, sir, a good favour you have --do you call, sir, this film *Rebecca* a mystery?  
ABRODERSON Ay, sir; a mystery.  
POMPEY *Rebecca*, sir, I have heard say, is a mystery; but, tell me true, why doth Laurence Olivier's character act so strangely? And what happened to his first wife? I cannot imagine.  
ABRODERSON Sir, it is a mystery.

## Come to Gilmore Tomorrow, As You'll Like It

ROSALIND It is not the fashion to see the ladies read at Gilmore; but it is far less unhandsome than to see those lords present the prologue. And t'will be the first time that any can remember when 'twas so; the larch-women will host you all (although 'twill still at Gilmore) tomorrow night! If it be true a good story needs no teller; yet good stories prove the better by the help of good tellers. What a case am I in then, that am stuck with reading this horrendous thing *Ellen* and cannot insinuate with you in the behalf of a good play! At least the guest faculty reader will provide something of worth! I charge you, O women, to laugh at as much of this *Ellen* as please you: and I charge you, O men, that between you and the women, and the bonfire, and the guest reader, the night may please.

## Two Rival Houses Compete for Trivia Crown

CAPULET Go, sirrah, trudge through your in-box; find those persons out who guessed Shaw, and read them to me.  
SERVANT 'Signor Broderson and his fellow Assistants,  
And their greatest enemy, the Kaplan/Pederson team;  
Both answer rightly every day; a feud between them grows.  
Plus Robbie Harold, Liz Bedell, and Kelli Reno;  
Sorina Higgins, Brian Kosnik, Tim O'Leary.'  
CAPULET Too many! Too many! Let's see how well they do today without a clue. And when did you learn to read?

## List, List! O, List!

HAMLET Frost Desk staff and Midd security guards defend us!  
Be thou a spirit of Frost or goblin damn'd,  
Bring with thee airs from Ripton or blasts from hell,  
Be thy intents wicked or poetical,  
Thou comest in such a questionable shape  
That I will speak to thee: I'll call thee Bobby,  
Wall-mender, poet, royal Frost: O, answer me!  
Let me not burst in ignorance; but tell  
Why now thy spirit, once all hearsed in death,  
Haunts Bread Loaf's campus at this modern day;  
Say, why is this? wherefore? what should we do?  
And if you could ten reasons give us, ghost,  
And funny ones at that, we'd thank you more.

HORATIO But what if it tempt you toward the dud, my lord,  
Or to some dreadful stale unfunny pun,  
Or there inspire some other horrible stuff,  
Which might deprive your Top Ten List of humor  
And keep 's behind the Llamas? think of it!

Frost's Ghost Mock me.

HAMLET I will.

Ghost I am that Frostian spirit,  
Doom'd for a certain term to walk the night,  
And for the day confined to fast in fires,  
Till the foul rhymes done in my days of nature  
Are burnt and purged away. But that I am forbid  
To aid the living with their Top Ten Lists,  
I could a joke unfold whose lightest word  
Would cause you to convulse, touch thy funny bone,  
Make thy lunch milk, mid-drink, start from your nose.  
But I cannot inspire; you're on your own.

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 8

Thursday, July 7, 2005

????

What author,  
who died on this  
day in 1930,  
invented a  
famous fictional  
sidekick who  
was supposedly  
born on this day  
in 1851?

## What's Up

Waitstaff Photo  
12:30, Inn Porch

Faculty Photo  
Staff Photo  
1:30, Inn/Lawn

Madrigalists  
5:00, Barn

Senior Meeting  
5:00, Blue Parlor

Awards Banquet  
6:00, Dining Hall

Soccer  
7:00, Field

BLTN  
7-9, Barn 1

Gilmore 9:00

## Menu

Chicken marsala  
or wild mushroom  
crepe Bismarck  
style; tiramisu for  
dessert.

## Weather

### Today

Showers, 75.

### Tomorrow

Showers, 74.

### Weekend

Thundershowers  
Sat., sun on Sun.

## BREAKING NEWS: TERROR ATTACKS IN LONDON

As you may already have heard, a series of apparently coordinated attacks on the London transportation system during rush hour this morning has killed at least 40 people and wounded hundreds more, according to ABC News. Near-simultaneous explosions were reported at at least five London subway stations, and one double-decker bus was destroyed as well. As far as we know, everyone in the extended Bread Loaf family, including those at the Oxford campus, has reported that they are safe; Jim Maddox will provide further details at lunch today.

## The Place to BLTN

Bread Loaf Teacher Network fellows will once again meet, as is their wont, in Barn 2 from 7-9 tonight.

## Dance Goes Through the Years Without "Through the Years"

At the risk of alienating the legion of Kenny Rogers fans, that song is hardly danceable. DJ Jon Freeman promises better beats during Saturday's Time Warp dance, when we'll relive the entire rock 'n' roll era in one evening. After "Rock Around the Clock" at 9 sharp, time stops for no man or woman until we get to 2005 by 1:00. Thus telescoping half a century into four hours has its advantages (the four months of heavy acne and orthodontic headgear that seemed interminable when you were thirteen will pass by in six minutes of INXS and Bananarama), disadvantages (lamentably, we can play no more than one song apiece by Billy Ray Cyrus, Vanilla Ice, or Hanson), and historically accurate moments (the music of the Ford presidency (1974-77) is largely as forgettable as the administration itself).

Those disinclined to stay for the entire four-hour tour might want to plan their arrival and departure accordingly. If you know the names of more than six original Mouseketeers, you'll probably enjoy the music of the first hour (1955-1975) most. If you clamored incessantly for a Cabbage Patch Kid®, you'll want to be there when we reach the 80's at about 10:30. And you youngsters who marvel at Bread Loaf's prehistoric phones (they still have a *cord* attached!?) will probably enjoy the later portions of the evening, although you may find the first hour or two an entertaining history lesson.

## Singers Besides Isaac Bashevis

The first Madrigalists rehearsal of the year brought an impressive dozen or so singers together in the Barn, but we're always looking for more voices to raise to the rafters (particularly, as is always the case, tenors and basses). If you're interested in a little bit of casual crooning or harmless harmonizing, drop by the Barn today at 5 to sing along as we polish the BL Fight Song.

## Dine to Find Out Who Won

Tonight is the annual Awards Dinner, at which Jim Maddox will name the recipients of Bread Loaf's many named scholarships and award honorary chairs (which are not, as popular legend maintains, constructed from pieces of the True Chair, the one Frost used to write in) to certain esteemed faculty members.

## Frosty Reception Guaranteed

Everyone in the Bread Loaf community – on- and off-campus residents included – is invited to this Saturday's Frost Picnic at the Homer Noble Farm (park your car at the Robert Frost Wayside on 125 and walk up the adjacent dirt road). Paul Muldoon, the summertime resident of the Homer Noble Farm, serves as unofficial host of this event. Dinnertime is, as usual, 6:00, but you might want to get there early for a tour of the Frost Cabin (and/or a firsthand look at the Heaney Bedroom, which can be accessed by jimmying open the appropriate second-story window).

## Event of Larch Significance at Gilmore

History will be made at Gilmore tonight, when one of the Ladies of Larch will become, as far as we know, the first female reader of *Ellen* in the 86 summers of Bread Loaf. As you are by now fully immersed in the strenuous intellectual activity demanded by your rigorous classes, you may be tempted to interpret this event as a symbolic rejection of the self-defined authoritative male voice of the unquestionably phallic Piney and of the formerly accepted male hegemony of the Gilmore readers, whose mockery of the text presumes to subvert the legitimacy of Battell's culturally masculinized instruction but in actuality reaffirms it through locating control of the narrative in an actual, as opposed to arboreal, male reader. The real significance is as follows: it will be fun, it will be different, and there will be a fire and refreshments.

## If You Fancy Footwork

Charlton Hoag forgot, when he proposed an informal soccer game for Tuesday night, that the once-in-a-Bread Loaf-career prospect of attending a lecture by a Nobel Prize-winning author might seem just a wee bit more tempting. He's undaunted by that setback, however, and determined to gather soccer enthusiasts of all skill levels tonight at 7 in the big field. He foresees no conflicts between this informal event and any visiting Nobelist, unless of course V.S. Naipaul drops by for a few sets of tennis with David Huddle.

## Photos Finished

Ed will take the staff and faculty photos after lunch today – staff on the Inn porch, and faculty on the West Lawn. Note the two distinct photos and separate locations; the bitter rivalry between the two groups, which culminates in the annual Faculty-Staff Sack Race (reigning champion: Victor Lustig) and Team Boggle Showdown (no made-up literary jargon, such as "gendric" or "Lacanular" or "semiotician," permitted) precludes their being able to abide the physical proximity that a collective photo would necessitate.

## These Two Suit Us to a T

Congratulations to Sarah Myers, whose design will adorn this year's Bread Loaf T-shirt, and to Ryan Lutz, whose design was chosen for the Charlie Orr Run T-shirt. The five-judge panel was impressed by all of the submissions, and you can see their selections outside the Dining Hall, where you'll also find information about how to order one or both of these surefire summer fashion trends.

## More of Those Annoying Student Clicks

In E. M. Forster's *Howards End*, Leonard Bast dies by having a heavily laden bookcase pulled down on top of him – an event that most critics have interpreted as a sign of the calamitous effects of the upper classes' disregard for, and unintentional destruction of, their social lessers, but which actually reflects Forster's suppressed desire that those who noisily typed near him in the British Library Reading Room would meet a similar fate. Similarly incendiary behavior – in this case, typing on the first-floor computers in Davison – might lead to such an act of violence being perpetrated against you by seething students who came to Davison to read quietly; Emily Bartels has already assured the *Crumb Bum* that the Directors will turn a blind eye to any such retribution enacted against these malefactors.

Please be considerate of those around you and remove yourself to the second floor or the Apple Cellar if you need to type; also, keep in mind that bringing headphones into the Library may cause similar irritation, as your music is almost always easily heard by those around you.

## Article Hits a Hitch; Cockeyed Synopsis Results

Tomorrow night's film is *Rebecca*, apparently the 1940 Alfred Hitchcock classic starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine and not the 1997 film of the same name, an adaptation of the children's classic *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*. The *Crumb Bum*, unaware of the differences between the two stories, conflated plot summaries he found on the Web, resulting in the emergence of this understandably confusing synopsis:

"A young woman believes her every dream has come true when her whirlwind romance with the dashing Maxim de Winter culminates in marriage. Life on Sunnybrook Farm with her mother and six brothers and sisters may be chaotic, but Rebecca loves every minute of it. But she soon realizes that the dead first Mrs. De Winter, haunts both the temperamental, brooding Maxim and the de Winter mansion, Manderley. Leaving them all behind and moving in with her two spinster aunts is almost more than Rebecca can bear! In order for Maxim and the new Mrs. De Winter to have a future, Rebecca's spell must be broken and the mystery of her violent death unraveled. She's just not prepared for her rambunctious spirit to be tamed so that she can become the perfect little lady her dignified aunts want her to be."

## A Passenger to Endear Ya

Ana Silva would be extremely grateful for a ride anywhere near Bard College this weekend July 9 or 10). Sushma Joshi is looking for a ride to NYC for long weekend and again after graduation, and Ben Landry is desperate for a ride to the Boston area this weekend or next. The poor man would like to see his wife (just in case the human-interest story angle tugs at a heartstring or two)!

All of these would-be riders will gladly help defray travel expenses (tolls, gas, Snapple and Hostess Donettes for roadside sustenance). Drop Ana, Sushma, or Ben a note via campus mail or BreadNet, or seek them out personally, if you can help.

## Directors Enjoin Your Company

Emily Bartels commands the *Crumb Bum* to remind all new students to schedule a meeting with one of the Directors. I'm sure that her directive to "phrase it so it sounds like fun" is less foreboding than it sounds, and the rumor that the only question Jim or Emily asks is "What...is King Lear...about?" is almost surely an exaggeration.

## Scared Up a Scarab?

Martin Whyte has lost a blue lapis scarab that possesses great sentimental value. If you've seen it around, he'd appreciate your leaving it at the Front Desk or dropping it off with him in Birch 2.

## Heaney Going, Going, Gone

Just because you didn't get a picture of Seamus Heaney, or a signed copy of one of his books, doesn't mean that you can't take a little souvenir of his visit home with you! Through a little foresight, the Waitstaff is proud to present the following items for auction at the end of lunch today. Bidding is expected to be brisk, so have your checkbooks handy!

1. EIGHT SETS OF SILVERWARE. One set of fork, knife, spoon from each meal Heaney took in the Bread Loaf Dining Hall. Set #5 contains extra fork given upon request after initial utensil dropped. Estimate: \$85-95 per set (\$115 for Set #5).

2. PIECE OF CELERY (slightly dessicated). Initially chosen for inclusion in the Tuesday dinner salad of the 1995 Nobelist, this 4" stalk was ultimately discarded (reason unknown) in favor of a presumably superior specimen (now believed lost). Estimate: \$65-75.

3. APRON (stained). Provenance: Rohstedt, K. Standard-issue cotton apron with oily stain (1.5" diameter) of lamb jus verified to have come from plate of author of "Digging," spilled by former owner upon apron en route to dish room. Estimate: \$130-160.

## Trivia Answer Hardly Elementary

Perhaps it was a bad idea for the *Crumb Bum* to ask a trivia question – how many Shakespearean plays are set at least partly in Italy? – that required actual research rather than a quick scan of the day's clue-riddled headlines. Team Pederson/Kaplan, however, rose to the challenge and provided the correct answer (13), and credit also goes to Kelli Reno, whose guess of 16 included all the plays, such as *Twelfth Night* and *The Comedy of Errors*, that take place in regions once under the sway of the Roman Empire. Today, you'll be happy to know, we return to the normal format – tough question, helpful clue embedded in headlines.

## Ghost Must Sure Like Home

While walking from Birch to one meal or another in recent days, the *Crumb Bum* has heard rumblings from the Men of Cherry and of Annex that submissions to this week's list, **Top Ten Reasons Robert Frost's Ghost Still Haunts the Vermont Campus**, are forthcoming. Check the official Top Ten list in tomorrow's *Crumb* to see if these pledges, no doubt part of the general campuswide uprising as a result of the unexpected infiltration of last week's list by the Fighting Llamas of Santa Fe, get fulfilled.

And, inspired by recent events, Mark Puckett submits the following list of **Top Ten Real Reasons Sandra Day O'Connor Retired**:

- 1) Tired of wearing the same dress every day.
- 2) Hit her thumb with the gavel one too many times.
- 3) Bored of having to read Clarence Thomas's *Playboy* issues, second.
- 4) Can finally start her own judicial reality show: *Judge This!*
- 5) Able to now do guest appearances on 24.
- 6) Hopes to give her friend, Lance Ito, a chance on the bench.
- 7) Can now write her memoir dispelling rumors that she and Margaret Thatcher were separated at birth.
- 8) Has the freedom to use the RV she bought in 1987 and hit all fifty states on a pre-Presidential tour with Arnold Schwarzenegger as her running mate.
- 9) Fed up with all the male judges calling the female judges, "Chicks."
- 10) Done with seeing Renquist in a towel in the judge's sauna after their squash matches.

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 9

Friday, July 8, 2005

????

Which famous author wrote a friend on this day in 1923 that she had just finished typesetting the first English edition of The Waste Land?

## What's Up

### Friday

M.Litt. Meeting  
2:30, Blue Parlor

Rebecca  
9:00, Barn

### Saturday

Frost Picnic  
6:00, Homer Noble Farm

Time Warp Dance  
9-1, Barn

Sunday  
Ultimate  
4:00

Blue Parlor  
7:30

## Menu

Pasta bar or  
veggie lasagna;  
garlic bread;  
tiramisu.

## Weather

Today  
Showers, 75.  
Tomorrow  
Rain, 71.  
Sunday  
Relief. Sun & clouds, 87.

## Thriller

Tonight's Barn film is *Rebecca*, the only Hitchcock film to win an Academy Award for Best Picture. The story, based on Daphne du Maurier's wildly successful novel, centers around a young woman (Joan Fontaine) whose belief that she has married her dream husband (Laurence Olivier) dissipates as she realizes the extent to which he and their house are haunted by the memory of his recently deceased first wife. And here's a great little nugget of trivia from amazon.com: Olivier treated Fontaine horribly, having wanted his then-girlfriend Vivien Leigh to play the part, but Hitchcock capitalized on Fontaine's misery by telling her that *everyone* on the set hated her. This knowledge made her understandably shy and uneasy during filming — which is just what Hitchcock wanted from her performance. Showtime is at 9 in the Barn, with popcorn provided free of charge, as always.

## Bust A Move

The rock and roll era officially began exactly fifty years ago tomorrow, when Bill Haley and the Comets hit #1 with "Rock Around the Clock"; we'll celebrate that anniversary, and the entire half century since, at tomorrow's Time Warp. The dance starts at 9 and in 1955, moving forward in time as the night progresses until we find ourselves back in the present day at 1:00.

## Stay (Just A Little Bit Longer)

If five summers aren't enough to satisfy your Bread Loaf fix, or if there are just too many professors whose courses you simply *have* to take, you might consider our M.Litt. program. If you're currently pursuing this advanced degree, or if you're interested in finding out more, make sure you attend a meeting with Emily Bartels today at 2:30 in the Blue Parlor.

## Oh, What A Night

Monday night brings another can't-miss faculty reading, as newly anointed Marino Professor David Huddle will read from his work in the Barn at 7:30. David's collected work includes the short story collections *The High Spirits*, *Only the Little Bone*, and *Intimates*; the novels *The Story of a Million Years* and *La Tour Dreams of the Wolf Girl*; and the volumes of poetry *Summer Lake* and *Grayscale*.

## Say You'll Be There

The forecast for tomorrow is rather grim, so check the Front Desk and Dining Hall bulletin boards for news regarding tomorrow's Frost Picnic. If the rain holds off, then you should walk, drive, or ride to the Homer Noble Farm. (Shuttle vans will depart from the Inn beginning at 5:30.) Jen Hansum and Maggie Favretti will give tours of the Frost Cabin from 5:30-6 and again from 6:30-7; if this is your first year in Vermont, your summer's not complete without a visit to his humble abode. To get to the Homer Noble Farm, park at the Robert Frost Wayside (not the Frost Trail) on 125 and walk up the dirt road just east of the picnic area until you reach the farmhouse. All Bread Loaf students and their families are invited.

## Simply the Best

Last night was Awards Night in Vermont, and those who couldn't attend the sumptuous banquet (one of the best single meals in recent memory) or who attend other campuses might want to congratulate the following recipients of named scholarships and faculty chairs:

The Reginald and Juanita Cook Scholarship	Matt Tossman
The Mina Shaughnessy Scholarship	Ben Landry
The Margaret Fielders Scholarship	Jennifer Chang
The Brent Goeres Scholarship	Bret Chenkin
The Larry Holland Scholarships	Clare Mackenzie
	Marge Droege
	Amy Hamilton
	Brian Hennelly
	Lauren Mondelli
	Kristin Schaffner
	Carrie Jewell
	Johanna Lewis
	Aurelie Perra
	Genny Berdoulay
	Kirsten Rohstedt
	Megan Schenk
	Eleanor Bard
	Chris Merrill
	David Huddle
	Carol MacVey
	Sara Blair

## Fun, Fun, Fun

Middlebury's 27<sup>th</sup> annual Festival on the Green kicks off tomorrow with the famous Peasant Market (food, books, everything under the sun for sale) and continues throughout next week with daily lunchtime entertainment for the whole family, nightly concerts by the Boogaloo Swamis (Sunday), the Arrogant Worms (Monday), and the Dick Forman Quintet (Wednesday) among others, and the closing Vermont Jazz Ensemble Street Dance next Saturday night. It's well worth a visit or two; the full schedule is available at the Front Desk.

## I Hate Everything About You

'Tis that time of year thou mayst in me behold  
A furious rage, or pique, or ire, at those  
Who others' peace in low esteem do hold  
And late noise make while I attempt to doze.  
In me thou seest the outrage at that jerk  
Who, in the Library, types to's heart's content  
On the first floor, while others try to work  
And ponder ways on him their spleen to vent.  
In me thou see'st a hatching evil plan  
'Gainst those who park on route one-twenty-five;  
Or worse, whose parking blocks the Front Desk van  
So it can't move — O knave, thou'll not survive!  
This thou perceivest, which makes thy obedience strong.  
Cease with these acts, or thou won't live ere long.

## You're The One That I Want

Congratulations to Allan Reeder, whom the Vermont Class of 2005 elected as their President at yesterday's meeting. No word yet on the new chief executive's domestic policy, Cabinet, or the possibility of a "police action" against the provocative border actions of the Meat Loaf School of Mathematics.

## I Go Blind

Christian Clarke is desperately seeking a ride to the Burlington LensCrafters this weekend to get new glasses. He'll gladly chip in for gas money, so let him know if you're going his way.

## New York State of Mind

Ana Silva is looking to catch a ride with anyone heading to New York City on July 9 or returning on July 17. You can find her at the Front Desk or leave a note in her mailbox if you're able to help.

## Whoops, I Did It Again

For some reason – quite possibly the *Crumb* Bum's repeated promises that Wimbleloaf signups would be posted outside the Dining Hall – people have been asking why there are no Wimbleloaf signups yet posted outside the Dining Hall. The *Crumb* Bum, chastened by his delinquency in this matter, has printed out the appropriate signup sheets for singles and doubles and will dutifully affix them to the bulletin board so that the summer's play may get underway.

## Run Around

The Ultimate Frisbee season has gotten off to a slightly slow start due to unfavorable circumstances the past two Wednesdays (first rain, then some famous guy reading in the Barn). But Sunday's forecast is excellent, so head to the field at 4 that day for a friendly game or three. Players of all skill levels are welcomed.

## Cover Me

Check out the design for this year's Bread Loaf T-shirt (posted in the Inn lobby and outside the Dining Hall) and make up your mind quickly if you'd like one, as the order deadline is fast approaching.

## Girls Just Want to Have Fun

Many thanks to the Ladies of Larch, who sponsored an historic and memorable all-female Gilmore reading last evening. They unearthed a heretofore overlooked segment of Volume II of *Ellen*, in which Ellen and Old Piney discuss the theories of undulation and vibration, and Sara Blair shared an entertaining story by Lorrie Moore and a touching poem by Grace Paley.

## New Sensation

By now you may have discovered the other momentous Bread Loaf event of July 7, 2005 – the installation of new cushions on many of the Barn chairs and sofas. The *Crumb* realizes that the adjustment to these new cushions may not be easy, so we have provided as a public service some answers to frequently asked questions:

### *What is this strange sensation I'm experiencing in my back and buttocks?*

This is called "comfort." Unfamiliar though it may be to Bread Loaf students accustomed to the previous furnishings, rest assured that numerous scientific studies have shown "comfort" to be conducive both to studiousness and to the occasional refreshing catnap.

### *Why are there no loose, sharp springs painfully jutting into my posterior?*

This is one of the side effects of the "comfort" previously mentioned (and perhaps another example of Middlebury's growing commitment to a "wireless campus"). Do not be alarmed, as your body will quickly adapt to this new feeling.

## Go West

Jim spoke last night of "leaving the Bread Loaf orb and scepter in the capable hands of Queen Emily" for two weeks of visits to the New Mexico and Alaska campuses – a phrase which I thought merely metaphorical until Queen Emily arrived at this morning's staff meeting brandishing said orb and scepter, which she appears to view not as the symbolic trappings of authority, but as weapons. It might be advisable, therefore, to let her cut in line in front of you at the salad bar and to cede your front-row sofa at David Huddle's reading to her at the slightest clearing of her throat. Should she get wind of these remarks, also look for Monday's *Crumb* to have transformed from the kind of objective journalism found in a modern democratic society into the fawning media organ of the new regime.

## Things That Make You Go Hmm...

Yesterday's trivia question didn't exactly require Holmesian deductive skills – Liz Bedell, Kurt Broderson, Sarah Myers, John Becker, Team Pederson/Kaplan, Kelli Reno, Gary Montano, and Daniel Ruff all correctly identified Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the man who died on the birthday of his second-most famous creation, Dr. Watson.

Don't go scouring the headlines for clues, as you won't find any waiting for you there; the *Crumb* Bum is confident enough that you can form at least an educated guess from the question itself.

## Ghostbusters

The *Crumb* Bum's concern over the paucity of entries for last week's Top Ten has vanished, as every campus but Alaska chimed in this week. Without further ado, here are the

### **Top Ten (Roughly) Reasons Robert Frost's Ghost Still Haunts the Bread Loaf Campus**

17. We're not sure, but his ghostly little horse thinks it queer. (MOA/SFFL)
16. Wait-listed, again, for Muldoon's poetry writing class. (BOBE)
15. Still wants Piney to talk to HIM. (OCWO)
14. Wants to do the "Electric-Slide" with Emily Bartels this weekend at the Barn Dance. (OCWO)
13. Wants to try out some "new stuff" at a Blue Parlor later this summer. (CN)
12. That 'no talent hack' Battell is getting too much air time at Thursday night Gilmore readings. (SFFL)
11. Looking forward to going to BBQ at "Paul Muldoon's" farm. (BOBE)
10. Couldn't get into Oxford! (OX)
9. Joseph Battell wasn't the only one who loved Old Piney. (BOBE)
8. Haunting Vermont? The dude was doing Tequila shots with us in Santa Fe last night! (SFFL)
7. Protesting changing the name of Robert Frost Interpretive Trail to Verizon Wireless Interpretive Trail. (MOA)
6. He is compelled to mend the wall across from the Inn. (CN)
5. Because Dixie Goswami arranged for him to participate in a student writing exchange, and you just don't let Dixie down. (CN)
4. Daily Tea Cabin rendezvous with Willa Cather. (CN)
3. Shhhh!!!! Don't tell John Elder he's dead!!!!!! (SFFL)
2. Spirit can't get released until Jim makes a different speech at the opening of Bread Loaf. (BOBE)
1. Hopes to catch apostate free-versers Huddle and Muldoon playing tennis without a net. (RH)

# Choose Your Own Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 10

Monday, July 11, 2005

????

Bread Loaf  
students find a  
barn in  
summertime a  
pleasant place –  
as did which  
children's  
author, born on  
this day, whose  
most famous  
work was  
inspired by such  
a location?

What's Up

Madrigalists  
5:00, Barn

T-Shirt Order  
Deadline  
6:45, Front Desk

David Huddle  
Reading  
7:30, Barn

Menu

Maple, thyme, and  
balsamic glazed  
chicken or creamy  
corn, roasted  
pepper, and  
jalapeno jack  
risotto; tomato and  
zucchini  
napoleons; broiler  
cake for dessert.

Weather

Today  
Partly cloudy,  
91/63.

Tomorrow  
Sunny, 87/62.

Wednesday  
Isolated  
thunderstorms,  
87/62.

## #1: LUNCH.

With Jim Maddox gone for the better part of two weeks, Emily Bartels announces at lunch that she will be selecting one lucky Bread Loafer to serve as her Assistant Director, chief flunky, and general Yes-Man or Woman. You spend the entire meal eagerly discussing with your tablemates what course of action might best ingratiate you with Emily.

Wise decisions may lead to your becoming her Chosen One, but poor choices may lead to embarrassment – or worse. Good luck!

If you decide to sit next to her at David Huddle's reading in an attempt to strike up a conversation, go to #2.

If you decide to compose a Hymn of Praise to Emily that the Madrigalists will perform at dinner, go to #3.

If you take the direct approach and sign up for a meeting with Emily herself, go to #10.

If you think that answering the trivia question correctly will impress her, go to #4.

## #2: DAVID HUDDLE READING.

You head to the Barn for David Huddle's reading tonight at 7:30. David entertains the assembled throng with new pieces and selections from his published work. You laugh whenever Emily does.

If, between poems, you are struck with a vision of how you could inventively decorate the Barn for Suppressed Desires, go to #14.

If you find the new cushions so comfortable that you find yourself dozing off, go to #15.

## #3: MADRIGALISTS REHEARSAL.

You show up at 5 in the hopes of teaching them "Em'ly, How We Do Adore Thee." Turns out that the Madrigalists are preparing for their end-of-summer concerts and don't have time to learn your piece. What they're singing, however, seems so fun that you can't help joining in.

If you feel that the only remaining way for the campus to become aware of your impeccable musical taste is for you to DJ one of the remaining dances, go to #11.

If you realize that you can sight-read music but can't read the English language, you may need a career change. Go to #12.

## #4: TRIVIA.

You're not going to let those smarmy suck-ups Brian Kosnik, Team Pederson/Kaplan, Liz Bedell, Kelli Reno, Ruth Miller, Kurt Broderson, and Sorina Higgins (all of whom identified Virginia Woolf as the answer to Friday's trivia question) be the only ones showing off in front of Queen Emily. You spend all afternoon trying to guess the answer to today's puzzler.

If you decide to bribe the Crumb Bum into giving you the answer and know that he'll be leading Madrigalists rehearsal this afternoon, go to #3.

If you feel that Emily would be further impressed with the humorous answers you provide for this week's Top Ten list, go to #6.

## #5: COFFEEHOUSE.

You sign up outside the Dining Hall to perform at this Friday's Coffeehouse, where Emily will be truly amazed by your tap-dancing, banjo-playing, or recitation of the first 400 digits of  $\pi$  (or, better yet, all three at once).

If someone suggests that even Seamus Heaney would have been impressed by your performance, go to #6.

If everyone starts getting up and dancing to the song you play on the banjo while tap-dancing and reciting random numbers you told everyone constituted  $\pi$ , you might be a great DJ. Go to #11.

## #6: TOP TEN COMPETITION.

You wisely prioritize your "to-do" list, working first with your dorm on the Top Ten Ways to Lure Seamus Heaney Back Next Year. Only when that list is finalized do you turn to developing a thesis for the 12-page essay on Robert Frost that's due to John Elder tomorrow morning. If your dorm really bonds while compiling your Top Ten list and you're eager for other opportunities to work with your buddies, go to #14.

If you run out of time and decide to submit your Top Ten list to John Elder instead, claiming that you thought an homage to Heaney in the "list" style of verse popularized by Whitman would fulfill the requirements of the assignment, go to #17.

## #7: THE HOMER NOBLE FARM.

You attend the rescheduled Frost Picnic this Saturday. You also remember to arrive early in order to take a tour of the Frost Cabin, which you've heard so much about.

If you decide that your hilarious impersonation of Robert Frost would just kill at the Coffeehouse, go to #5.

If, during the tour, you wonder what mysteries lie behind that innocuous-looking locked door, go to #16.

## #8: T-SHIRT SIGNUPS.

You hustle to the Front Desk, because you know that tonight is the deadline to order a Bread Loaf T-shirt that will remind you of your summer here for years to come.

If you're also reminded that no Bread Loaf summer is complete without a visit to the Robert Frost Cabin, go to #7.

If, while ordering a small T-shirt for your child, you realize that you haven't arranged for child care during Commencement yet, go to #13.

## #9: SEAMÜS.

You didn't expect Seamüs (pronounced SEA-moose) the inflatable dolphin to be hanging out in John's Pond – after all, you'd previously only seen him in the Dining Hall – but there he is. He clearly wants to play, as he bounces an inflatable beach ball on his nose and then off your head as you walk by.

If your encounter with the inflatable Seamüs makes you long for the return of the other Seamus, go to #6.

If annoyed by his attentions, you turn around and snap, "Stop bugging me, or I'll tell Chef Jim how much I like dolphin steak with beurre blanc," go to #18.

## #10: DIRECTOR'S OFFICE.

You see Elaine to set up a time to meet with Emily (or Jim, when he returns from Alaska in two weeks). You try your hardest to impress her with your intelligence and wit and general toadying capability.

*If Emily doubts that you have the fashion sense to be worthy of becoming her assistant, go to #8.*

*If Emily doubts that you have the intelligence to be worthy of becoming her assistant, go to #4.*

*If Emily doubts that you have the musical skill to be worthy of becoming her assistant, go to #3.*

## #11: DJ'S.

You find Maggie Favretti and tell her that you would be happy to set the Barn thumping with your selection of tunes.

*If talking to Maggie reminds you that she'll be leading tours of the Frost Cabin this weekend, go to #7.*

*If you tell her how great you think four hours of polka tunes would be, she'll suggest that you limit yourself to three minutes of 'em at the Coffeehouse. Go to #5.*

## #12: CARNEY-SANDEE INTERVIEWS.

You decide you'd like to meet with a representative from Carney-Sandoe, America's leading placement agency for educators. You sign up outside the Office for a time to meet with them on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

*If, after that meeting, you take a leisurely stroll towards John's Pond to contemplate your career options, go to #9.*

*If the representative tells you that lion-tamers, flugelhorn instructors, or stand-up comics just aren't really in demand in schools these days, go to #5.*

## #13: CROUTONS.

You remember that you need child care during the Commencement banquet and ceremony. You hustle to the Front Desk to reserve a spot for your little one(s) at Croutons for that night.

*If you remember that you can bring your children and family to this weekend's Frost Picnic, go to #7.*

*If you decide to head down to Croutons to see how your little one is getting along today, go to #19.*

## #14: SUPPRESSED DESIRES.

Your dorm or group of friends decides that they'd like to sponsor the July 30<sup>th</sup> Suppressed Desires dance extravaganza. You tell one of the Director's Assistants your ideas for a theme and a decorating scheme for the Barn.

*If your concept, "Luau in the Fjords!", requires a special kind of music that only your extensive collection of Norwegian-Hawaiian fusion music can satisfy, go to #11.*

*If your concept incorporates Seamüs, the inflatable dolphin you may have seen in the Dining Hall or at last Saturday's dance, go to #9.*

## #15: THE BARN, 9:49 P.M.

You're roughly awakened by someone shaking your shoulder. It's David Huddle, and he's a bit piqued that you dozed off while he was reading tonight. Readers of David's work in years to come will assume that it's just his fertile imagination that dreamed up the patently ridiculous idea of an author so sensitive to perceived criticism that he does away with anyone who so much as yawns during a reading (and if he's asked, he'll just say he was reading *Misery* and got the idea to flip the story around). You're certainly not going to be around to disabuse anyone of their erroneous assumptions. *Start again.*

## #16: FROST CABIN ATTIC.

You force the lock open and head upstairs. What you discover there takes your breath away – brilliant poems that no one's ever seen before, a big package to "Bob" from "J.D." that turns out to contain an entire Salinger manuscript, and a lengthy explanation of the true meaning of "The Road Not Taken." Jen and Maggie, wisely securing the cabin when their tours are over, lock the attic door behind you. The discovery of your skeletal remains in 2043 will, however, generate excitement, scandal, and a general reappraisal within the community of Frost scholars of the man and his work. *Start again.*

## #17: SOMEWHERE IN THE GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST.

John Elder invites you to take a hike with him to discuss your "really wonderfully creative paper." You head to a belilaced cellar hole, just like the one in "Directive." John invites you to jump down into the seven-foot-deep pit to better understand Frost's points about the transience of human presence and the poet's duty to recall those memories. Ordinarily, Frost notes, such cellar holes close very slowly, "like a dent in dough" – but with John Elder shoveling dirt in over your increasingly frantic flailings and gradually muted objections, today it takes no time at all. *Start again.*

## #18: JOHN'S POND.

Knowing that vacationers in the Caribbean pay good money to swim with dolphins, you quickly accept when the smiling dolphin asks if you'd like to frolic in John's Pond for a bit. Being pinned to the muddy bottom by the surprisingly vengeful Seamüs, however, is not what you had in mind. You will be remembered fondly, particularly by the tadpoles and goldfish who, for generations to come, will find that your skull is way more fun to swim through than any crappy pet-store plastic castle you can buy. *Start again.*

## #19: PLAYGROUND.

Oh, isn't that cute. The kids are all excited about the upcoming release of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. They've all made little wizard hats, and robes, and magic wands that look like paper towel tubes painted black and sprinkled with glitter. And they're practicing casting spells – how absolutely precious! But how are they getting bright green bolts of lightning to shoot out of the ends of their little paper-towel wands? And why did that sapling they were pointing them at just explode? And why are they now heading towards me, shouting anti-Muggle propaganda and chanting "*Incendiaris!*"???. *Start again.*

## #20: SUCCESS!

Emily congratulates you on your new promotion and announces that you are the first holder of the newly created Jim Maddox Chair. When a cackling Emily announces that she's cancelled Jim's return ticket from Alaska, you also become the holder of the Jim Maddox Desk, and the Jim Maddox Pencil Sharpener, and the Jim Maddox Pad of Post-It Notes. Emily looks forward to using you as her lackey, gofer, and all-purpose scapegoat for years to come. *The End.*

# The Crumb<sup>1</sup>

The Daily Bulletin<sup>2</sup> of the Bread<sup>3</sup> Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 11

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

????

Who turns 188  
today?<sup>4</sup>

What's Up

Soccer  
7:00, Field

Spoken Word  
Poetry  
Workshop  
7:30, Barn 1

Thomas  
Pynchon Visits!<sup>5</sup>  
8:30, Inn Porch

J.D. Salinger  
Social Hour<sup>6</sup>  
10-11, Treman

Menu

Cod fricassee with  
potatoes,  
mushrooms, and  
corn or vegetable  
strudel with basil-  
red pepper pesto,  
mesclun greens,  
and Tuscan bean  
purée. Broiler  
cake for dessert.

Weather

Today  
Sunny (87/62),  
with mosquito  
activity "very  
high" in the  
evening,  
according to  
weather.com.<sup>7</sup>

Tomorrow &  
Thursday  
Isolated storms,  
87/62.

## Sounds Like It'll Be Just Us

Chris Merrill's play *Just Us* is going to be produced in Los Angeles in September, but he's giving Bread Loaf a sneak preview tomorrow night at 7:30 in Barn A. Christian Clarke, Beth Stanitski, Joe Freeman<sup>8</sup>, Eleanor Bard, and Allan Reeder<sup>9</sup> make up the cast. Chris calls it "a funnier version of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*" but counsels that its adult content<sup>9,5</sup> makes parental discretion advised.

## Higher Laws Prevail Upstairs in Library

Beginning this week, the upstairs conference room in the library will be frequently used for BreadNet workshops and meetings. A schedule of workshop and meeting times will be posted on each door of the room. Please expect some conversation during those times<sup>10</sup>. Please also understand that the four computers in that room are intended for use by members of the Writing to Make a Difference class<sup>11</sup> and for BreadNet training. You're welcome to use the computers when they are not in use, but do refer to the schedule, and defer to these students.

## Reading, Writing, Speaking, Slamming

Andolyn Brown and Mark Otuteye are hosting a workshop entitled "toolkits for teaching spoken word poetry" tonight in Barn I at 7:30 p.m. All those interested in learning how to teach spoken word and slam poetry<sup>12</sup> in their classrooms should come to this unique and lively performance and pedagogical workshop. Participants should bring a pen<sup>13</sup> and paper and expect to write and perform spoken word poetry.

## Been Fielding Right Answers All Day

The *Crumb* Bum thinks that he should ask questions about children's authors more often, as yesterday's question spurred lots of new people<sup>14</sup> to respond. (On a related note, the *Crumb* Bum also thinks that he'd better stop referring to himself in the third person, as he finds this style of prose disquietingly reminiscent of Joseph Battell's.<sup>15</sup>) Fred Sullivan, Amy Hamilton, Kelli Reno, Jay Crawford-Kelly, Gary Montano, Sandy Brutkoski, Ruth Miller, and Steve Suomi (as well as the inevitable Kurt Broderson, Team Pederson/Kaplan, and Liz Bedell)<sup>16</sup> all correctly identified E.B. White as yesterday's answer. Whether as many people can figure out the answer to today's awfully short question, or spot the clues that abound in today's headlines, remains to be seen.

## Former Inhabitants Join in Top Ten

Bread Loaf alum Paul Parsons<sup>17</sup> becomes the first to submit ideas for **Top Ten Ways to Lure Seamus Heaney Back Next Year**, despite the fact that he wasn't here to hear this year. If Paul can devise answers from a distance, the Men of Annex<sup>18</sup> and the rest of the campus should have little difficulty getting lists of their various ploys to the *Crumb* Bum by Friday. He will then publish the most uproarious submissions in that day's issue and pass along to Jim Maddox any promising stratagems that do not, at first glance, appear to violate any local statutes<sup>19</sup> or articles of the Geneva Convention<sup>20</sup>.

## Acts for Coffee House Warming Up

Judging from the signup sheet, Friday's Coffeehouse will feature quite a variety of musical acts and other talents (though precisely what "The Waitstaff Ensemble" has planned<sup>21</sup> is the source of much speculation and not a little dread). There's still plenty of room for your special talent, so dust off your marimba<sup>22</sup>, baton<sup>23</sup>, or Irish-dance apparel<sup>24</sup> and join us for an evening of fun on Friday. The signup sheet is outside the Dining Hall.

## Seniors Spring for Pizza Party

Well, it may not be technically *pizza* they serve at American Flatbread<sup>25</sup> in the Marble Works downtown, but it's mighty good<sup>26</sup> – enough, apparently, to spur the senior class to organize an outing there for dinner on Friday night, despite the obvious appeal of staying on campus for yet another spectacular culinary display<sup>27</sup> from Chef Jim Logan. Any '05ers interested in dining out should meet in the lobby at 6:00<sup>28</sup>; Senior Class President Allan Reeder reminds those with cars that it would be helpful if they'd be willing to drive down.<sup>29</sup>

## Festival Boosts Local Economy

Middlebury continues its annual midsummer Festival-on-the-Green through this week, with musical performances each night at 7 and 8:30. Tonight's featured guests are the Black Sea Quartet<sup>30</sup> (folk music from eastern and central Europe) and La Volée de Castors<sup>31</sup> (call-and-response songs and boisterous reels). Tomorrow night there's Motown by the Middlebury Town Hall players and jazz from the Dick Forman Jazz Group<sup>32</sup>.

## Loafers Prove Brute Neighbors at Local Tavern's Trivia Test

Wednesday night has always been Trivia Night at Two Brothers Tavern downtown, and in the summertime hordes of Bread Loafers and Language School students<sup>33</sup> descend upon the popular watering place<sup>34</sup> to try their luck. Because Bread Loaf students are by nature possessed of stores of knowledge that have little or no other practical application outside the realm of the bar trivia contest<sup>35</sup>, the campus traditionally fares quite well (two weeks ago Bread Loafers ran the table, winning the coveted cash prize for first place and the only slightly less coveted cheese pizza for second place). In the eyes of the locals, however, Bread Loaf's sudden and near-total dominance becomes an unacceptable invasion of Visigoths<sup>36</sup> that must be turned back by any means necessary<sup>37</sup>. The means usually chosen is the judicious inclusion in the trivia contest of local-knowledge questions few Bread Loafers can answer, such as "Who was the leader of the Green Mountain Boys?",<sup>38</sup> "What is Vermont's state fossil?",<sup>39</sup> "Besides Calvin Coolidge, what other President was born in Vermont?",<sup>40</sup> "How many people live in Middlebury?", and "What are their names?"

Despite these obstacles laid before us, Bread Loafers by the dozens will be at Two Brothers tomorrow at 8:30. Grab some friends<sup>41</sup> and join us there; the *Crumb* Bum, adhering to Hemingway's and Wolfe's belief in participatory journalism, will be there to compete as well as to report.<sup>42</sup>

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Extra-Scholarly, M.L.A.-Approved, Full Of Impressive Numbers of Endnotes Issue.
- <sup>2</sup> Occasionally interrupted with marks signifying the presence of an endnote.
- <sup>3</sup> Like this.
- <sup>4</sup> Yes, I'm aware that *no one* is actually celebrating their 188<sup>th</sup> birthday today, at least not in the bring-'em-out-and-blow-out-the-candles-on-their-cake sense of the phrase, and I'm aware that, technically, *lots* of people turn 188 today; what we're looking for here, people, is for you to *get with the program* and accept that we're looking for someone (now dead) with something to do with whatever it is that we do up here at Bread Loaf. (The answer is not "Old Piney.")
- <sup>5</sup> This is not actually happening. It's a slow news day. So sue me if I get a little dreamy now and again.
- <sup>6</sup> OK, look, if you read #5, flipped excitedly to the endnotes for further details, realized it was a hoax, turned *back* to the front page, read about the Salinger visit, and fell for the same trick *again* – well, then, my friend, we're talking about some serious gullibility issues, in which case I'd like to have a word with you about your weekly *Crumb* subscription payment.
- <sup>7</sup> Thanks, weather.com, for telling us something we didn't know.
- <sup>8</sup> Momentarily misread by the *Crumb* Bum as "Jon Freeman," *Crumb* Bum's actual name, leading to brief period of hyperventilation and stage fright based on erroneous assumption that *Crumb* Bum was expected to be *in* performance Wednesday night and had been repeatedly letting down fellow readers by not attending rehearsals. Joe Freeman, we can only assume, is rarin' to go.
- <sup>9</sup> I'm getting a good vibe about director Merrill's talents, as shown by his shrewd decision to use someone named "Reeder" in a staged reading.
- <sup>9.5</sup> The "adult content" does not refer to the five adults in the cast, mind you, but the mature subject matter.
- <sup>10</sup> If you customarily work on the second floor and hear conversations coming from the next room, do not – I repeat, do *not* – form an angry mob straight out of *Frankenstein* and besiege the conference room, waving flickering Citronella torches and shouting epithets and demanding that the talkers be rendered up unto you for suitable retribution. Go find somewhere else to study.
- <sup>11</sup> Who, they promise, will not say "Nyah, nyah, nyah nyah, nyah" or otherwise insinuate that they are in any way morally superior to you when laying their rightful claim to said computers.
- <sup>12</sup> Not what you do when, frustrated by *The Faerie Queene*, you angrily "slam" the book (3.4 lbs.) against the floor or wall, deriving small pleasure from subsequent "thud."
- <sup>13</sup> Or more than one pen. Or a pencil. Or a combination of various writing utensils. Or a goose quill. Andolyn and Mark aren't picky.
- <sup>14</sup> (By which the *Crumb* Bum does not mean to insinuate that they didn't *use* to be people, that until they submitted correct answers he viewed them as subhuman creatures unworthy of coverage.)
- <sup>15</sup> If I start addressing entire issues of the *Crumb* to young girls, or expounding on the theories of sound propulsion or gravitational magnetism, please intervene for the good of the community.
- <sup>16</sup> (By which the *Crumb* Bum does not mean to insinuate that he finds the existence of said people "inevitable" or in any way adamantly refutes the legitimacy of the doctrine of free will.)
- <sup>17</sup> Who, although he most recently resided in the Annex, has decided to contribute any points his responses earn to Robbie Harold.
- <sup>18</sup> Who will, no doubt, no longer speak of former Annexian Parsons for his willful violation of the Sacred Annex Loyalty Oath.
- <sup>19</sup> Such as the Vermont law prohibiting underwater whistling, or the one requiring wives to obtain written permission from their husbands before wearing false teeth.
- <sup>20</sup> Article CLXVII explicitly prohibits the misleading of renowned Irish poets for the purposes of amusement or financial gain.
- <sup>21</sup> On the signup sheet, "The Waitstaff Ensemble" has indicated that their act involves "Music"; the proliferation of quotation marks, none of which are my own, begets the curious combination of anticipation and dread with which one awaits a Mike Tyson fight, a Chris Columbus film, or Co-ed Nude Faculty Volleyball Night. This means you, Emily Bartels.
- <sup>22</sup> And you, Mrs. *Crumb* Bum.
- <sup>23</sup> And you, Ed Brown.
- <sup>24</sup> "Flatbread Party" just hasn't caught on yet as a phrase, and besides, "Pizza Party" croons to the *Crumb* Bum with its siren song of alluring alliteration.
- <sup>25</sup> Anyone who brings the *Crumb* Bum back a complimentary Revolution Flatbread gets free answers to the trivia questions for the remainder of the summer. Just something to keep in mind.
- <sup>26</sup> Bread Loaf alums will no doubt remember fondly their typical evening fare of maple-thyme glazed chicken, Alaskan king salmon, or corn, roasted pepper, and jalapeno jack risotto...what's that? Oh, that's right – that's just what we've been eating *this* summer. You didn't eat anywhere near this well? Gosh, we're awfully sorry.
- <sup>27</sup> That's 6:00 *Friday*, but if you're bright enough to know to turn the page over to read this, you're bright enough to have figured that out.
- <sup>28</sup> And back, bringing the *Crumb* Bum that Revolution Flatbread I was talking about.
- <sup>29</sup> And let me tell you, once you've mastered getting those instruments to sound good under *water*, playing on dry land is a snap.
- <sup>30</sup> Which I, with my two years of French, translate into "The Moving Casters," though I admit that the likelihood of a folk band deriving its name from mobile furniture is at best remote.
- <sup>31</sup> As you might expect from a band calling itself the Dick Forman Jazz Group.
- <sup>32</sup> Isn't there something in the Language School Pledge about not being able to *write* trivia answers in English, or *listen* to questions in English, or beating Bread Loaf students at trivia? Note to self: Use Maddox's pro-Bread Loaf sympathies and oversight of entire Middlebury graduate program to obtain injunction against Language School students participating in trivia, or anything else where they might beat us.
- <sup>33</sup> The witticism intended to occupy this spot has mysteriously evaporated from the *Crumb* Bum's consciousness. Anyone with suggestions as to how to expand upon this outmoded expression should contact the *Crumb* Bum.
- <sup>34</sup> The capital of Zimbabwe is Harare! Hack Wilson holds the single-season RBI record! Gene Cernan was the last man to walk on the moon!
- <sup>35</sup> It must be said, however, that we Bread Loafers never, ever pillage, we dress much more nicely than your average Visigoth, and only rarely do we carry away one of the village maidens.
- <sup>36</sup> Also known as "cheating."
- <sup>37</sup> Ethan Allen.
- <sup>38</sup> The White Whale. I kid you not.
- <sup>39</sup> Ethan Allen.
- <sup>40</sup> Try not to grab them in such a way that they spill their coffee, go rigid with terror, or reach for their can of Mace.
- <sup>41</sup> As objectively as possible, unless some other backstabbing no-good underhanded lickspittle ill-bred nefarious group of rapscallions beats my team out for the crown.

# The Crumb

*The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English*

Volume 86, Number 12

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

?????

*What did  
Wordsworth  
first visit on  
this day in  
1798?*

## What's Up

- Director's Reception**  
5:00, West Lawn
- Ultimate**  
7:00, Field
- Just Us**  
7:30, Barn A

## Menu

Creole roast pork with sour orange and toasted garlic sauce or sweet potato polenta with artichoke, garlic, and feta sauté; couscous with toasted almonds and vegetables; flan for dessert.

## Weather

- Today**  
Partly cloudy,  
88/67.
- Tomorrow**  
Thunderstorms,  
83/65.
- Friday**  
Sunny,  
89/62.

## Just Us Prevails

Tonight's main event is a staged reading of Chris Merrill's play *Just Us* in Barn A at 7:30. The play concerns two couples – one blue-state, one red – who are double-booked in a rental cottage in Maine and must figure out how to survive the inevitable attendant conflict. Christian Clarke, Joe Freeman, Beth Stanitski, Allan Reeder, and Eleanor Bard are your readers. Adult humor and content make parental discretion advised (but non-juvenile attendance strongly encouraged).

## Desire Under the Pines

Ever six steps ahead of the rest of us, the Director's Assistants have gone ahead and un-suppressed one of their most fervent desires – namely, the hope that a willing dormitory, faction, or coterie will step up to sponsor the July 30<sup>th</sup> Suppressed Desires extravaganza. Sponsoring the event involves only the mental strain of selecting an appropriate topic (for ideas, see 1997, "The Shag Shack"; 2004, "Ye Olde Bawdy House," though themes need not be similarly suggestive) and the minor physical labor necessary to festoon the Barn with appropriate, uh, festoonia, and clean up the decorations late, *late* the next morning. See Maggie or Kurt or Jen if you'd be willing to help out.

## Heist Coffee

Jean Valjean stole a loaf of bread and got off with only years of tormenting pursuit from Inspector Javert. Prometheus stole fire from the gods and, as the result of a ridiculously lenient plea bargain, only had to be chained to a rock and have his liver devoured daily. YOU, however (and you know who you are – don't you dare quietly fold up the *Crumb* and pretend I'm not talking to you), have done the unforgivable: you have stolen coffee cups from the Dining Hall and imperiled our patriotic pledge to provide Coffee For All, just one of the democratic principles that make our country great.

In a staggering display of charity, the Waitstaff will for the next few days turn a blind eye should you slink back to return cups, plates, cutlery, salad bowls, tablecloths, meat slicers, industrial mixers, walk-in freezers, or any other purloined goods. After this weekend, however, thieves will be strapped to an Adirondack Chair, denied access to insect repellent no matter what those mollycoddlers at Amnesty International say about it, and forced to listen to a recitation of *Favorite Jokes of Bread Loaf Faculty Children* (9 vols.; much repetition).

## Record Setting Performances

A more urgent Barn Dance-related plea: the Director's Assistants are still searching for DJ's for part of this weekend's dance (the 11-1 shift, to be precise) and on selected future weekends. You'll get a cool \$30 per hour for your efforts, and minimal technical skill is all that's required to work the mixing board and CD players. So if you think you know what's danceable (hints: Madonna, any song with "Boogie" in the title, Fatboy Slim\*) and what's not (hints: Zamfir, William Hung, any of that *American Idol* caterwauling) and would like to be a member of this Beat Generation, talk to Maggie or Jen or Kurt soon.

\*Who, by the by, turns 42 today. Can he possibly be *this* old? Are you even allowed to call yourself "Fatboy Slim" at that advanced age?

## Latte of Talent at Coffeehouse

The bad news is that there's no Friday film this week, but you'll hardly mind that it's been replaced by the Coffeehouse, a panoply of musical acts and other displays of talent from your fellow Bread Loafers. If you'd like to perform whatever it is that you do impressively well, there's still time to sign up outside the Dining Hall. If the only talent you care to display on Friday is applauding, that's fine too – just show up at the Barn at 8:00 to enjoy the show and partake of gourmet coffee, biscotti, and other tidbits.

## Such Wicked Speed

The usual Ripton speed trap seems – and I strongly emphasize *seems* – to be less of a threat this summer, but two Bread Loafers can attest that the local authorities are dead serious about the reduced speed limit in the work zone where 125 meets Route 7. Keep it under 40 in that stretch, lest you find yourself on the receiving end of a \$240 ticket. It could have been worse, though – if the cops had found stolen coffee cups or other Dining Hall equipment in the possession of either motorist, we're talking jail time for sure.

## Well Done Ponderings

By sending in the right answer, Thoreau, just before press time this morning, Kurt Broderson stays within shouting distance of the as-yet unshakable Team Pederson/Kaplan in the trivia contest. Brian Kosnik, Gary Montano, Kelli Reno, Marie D'Amato, and Jay Crawford-Kelly also identified the Walden Pond-erer and get to brag to their friends and family about getting their names in print. If you know whereof I speak today, fire off a guess.

## **Senior Class Mushrooms on Friday**

In a bold policy move that seems to be polling well across his various constituencies, Senior Class President Allan Reeder announces that they'll all meet AT American Flatbread at 6 p.m. (not in the Inn lobby) on Friday in order to save time for those heading back up the mountain for the Coffee House. If anyone needs a ride, check the "VT Seniors 05" conference folder on BreadNet. Whether or not President Reeder can successfully negotiate a compromise between deeply polarized factions regarding "The Anchovy Question" will, it seems, be the first truly defining moment of his administration.

## **Actors Annoyed with Play**

*Romeo and Juliet* is proceeding just swimmingly, thank you, but there have been several complaints from Birch residents about the person or persons who awoke several of us during yesterday's early-morning game of hopscotch. Surely there is a stretch of sidewalk somewhere on campus that would suit your purposes equally well without waking actors from their slumbers? Unrepentant repeat offenders will be identified and dragged from the audience during *Romeo* to serve as human shields during the fight scenes.

## **Angela's Bashes**

There will be live, acoustic music, both covers and originals, at Angela's Pub, downstairs from Two Brothers Tavern, every Wednesday night after the upstairs trivia contest concludes – about 9:30 or 10, usually. The musician is Chris McMillan, who played at the Coffee House last year. On some weeks other Bread Loaf musicians, such as Kirsten Rohstedt of Madrigalists fame, will also perform.

## **Tennis Racket Didn't Earn Happy Response**

No one in the Library is going to be distracted by the "thwack" of a well-struck forehand on the courts just outside, and anyone who minds an occasional call of "Out!" or "30-15" should probably find somewhere else to study. But casual conversation unrelated in any discernible way to tennis does seem like an avoidable "fault"; we in Davison would "love" it if you tennis "aces" would refrain from making such a "racket" if you don't want to be called a "Roddick."

## **Sandoe Can Do for Candidates**

Though their name might sound like they serve itinerant circus folk, Carney, Sandoe & Associates is America's leading independent school placement agency, and one of their representatives will be visiting Bread Loaf on July 19<sup>th</sup>. If you're contemplating a career move, and would like to discuss how Carney, Sandoe can help find the right school for you and convince schools that you're the right candidate for them, sign up on the Office bulletin board for an appointment.

## **Itsy Bitsy Teeny Heaney**

Only a few submissions for this week's **Top Ten Ways to Lure Seamus Heaney Back Next Year** have trickled in so far, but it's only Wednesday, so there's plenty of time between now and Friday's *Crumb* to concoct a bunch of witty responses that will boost your dorm's standing in the summer-long competition. E-mail Jon Freeman once you've assembled a list of ideas.

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86 Number 13

Thursday July 14, 2005

????

Born on this day in 1862 was the first American woman to do what?

What's Up

Senior Meeting  
5:00, Tamarack

BLTN  
7-9, Barn 1

Soccer  
7:00, Field

Gilmore  
9:00

Menu

Grilled tuna ratatouille with fresh garden herbs or wild mushroom ravioli ratatouille with Alfredo sauce glaze; saffron pilaf; blueberry pie for dessert.

Weather

Today  
Scattered strong storms, 84/64.

Tomorrow  
Sunny, 89/64.

Weekend  
Isolated thunderstorms, 86/66.

## Welcome to Workshop Visitors, Who Like Coming Back Over Andover Andover...

Lou Bernier and members of the 2005 Andover Bread Loaf Writing Workshop, a summer institute for urban teachers, arrive at noon today for their brief annual visit to this campus. While ABL's scope is national and international, much of its strongest work is in the nearby city of Lawrence MA. Over the 18 years of this partnership, many teachers have come to Bread Loaf from ABL. Please join us in welcoming them!

Also, as it's Thursday, BLTN will be meeting in Barn 1 once again from 7-9.

## Have a Grande Time at Friday's E-Venti

The lineup for Friday's Coffeehouse is large and varied (magic from Larry Bounds, "unfunny comedy" from Alex Levin, a spoken-word performance from Mark Otuteye, and a plethora of musical acts), but there's still room for your special talent. Talk to Melissa Roja or sign up on the bulletin board outside the Dining Hall.

And apologies for yesterday's *Crumb*, which mentioned that the Coffeehouse will start at 8:00. Bread Loafers mistakenly received the Central Standard Time edition of yesterday's issue (intended for our alumni base in Edmonton and Managua). The Coffeehouse will, of course, begin at 9:00 EST sharp. For those of you in Turkey wanting to watch the simulcast, that's 4:00 a.m. Saturday — set those alarm clocks!

## "You List These," Ed Says

The Bookstore has received the copies of the three back-ordered texts for Victor Luftig's *Ulysses* class, but there are only enough copies for Victor's students. Please — please, people — try to restrain yourselves from impersonating a member of that class and snapping up a copy of *Ulysses: En-Gendered Perspectives* or the other critical works currently racing up the New York Times' bestseller lists and clamoring to be chosen as Oprah's next selection.

## Sinister Seniors Schedule Secret Session

The senior class will meet tonight at Tamarack from 5-6. Given the brevity of the notice handed to the *Crumb* Bum and the remoteness of the location, some scurrilous business must be at hand. Planning Senior Prank of unprecedented magnitude (moving Brandy Brook onto tennis courts)? Turning end-of-summer Prom King and Queen election into sham by deciding in advance who is, like, so *not* regal?

## Important EPortfolios RePort

Caroline Eisner will be holding two workshops on EPortfolios, first next Thursday, July 21, from 7-9 in Barn 1, and continuing on Tuesday, July 26 at the same time and place. People should make an effort to attend the first meeting, because Caroline will pick up on Tuesday where she leaves off on Thursday.

## Enthusiastic Joggers Get Charlie Orr's

The annual Charlie Orr 5K Fun Run/Jog/Walk will be held at 9:30 a.m. on August 6; sign up at the Front Desk if you'd like to participate. T-shirts are available for purchase there as well; the \$10 cost not only guarantees you a degree of sartorial splendor but doubles as a contribution to the Charlie Orr Memorial Scholarship Fund. Because of the turnaround time involved in ordering a sufficient quantity of shirts, the signup deadline is Sunday.

## Please Help DJ!

Yes, there will definitely be a dance in the Barn this Saturday from 9-1, but because no one has yet stepped forward to offer to DJ the 11-1 shift, the Director's Assistants have been forced to brainstorm alternative plans in the event of a silent final two hours:

- Offer avant-garde "Dance Without Music," featuring Bread Loafers gyrating to no sound whatsoever. Intended to decontextualize the movements from their customary lyric- or melody-based significance; onlookers would then imbue the scene with a "meaning" generated free of the cultural mandates implicit in all popular music.
- Have Maggie Favretti read selections from *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*; students sway to various iambs, trochees, and dactyls, with the occasional heavily spondaic poem to generate a little slam-dancing.
- If all else fails, reluctantly grant permission to overly enthusiastic would-be DJ's Emily Bartels (CD collection predominantly Perry Como and Rosemary Clooney) or Miriam Freedman (*SpongeBob SquarePants Sings Silly Songs*, *Raffi Live at the Acropolis*, Ludacris).

If these scenarios don't frighten someone into volunteering their services, perhaps the promise of \$60 for the two hours' work, access to the Bread Loaf CD Vault, and (Kurt promises) free beer and Goldfish just for you will entice someone to charge to the rescue.

## Frost Picnic Forecast: Fire, Ice, Sun, Fun

Some say a picnic must have fire,

Some say, no, ice.

On Saturday, if you'd acquire

A burger, then you'd favor fire.

But what makes the Frost Picnic nice,

Is Chef Jim knows enough of food

To say that for your cold tea ice

Is also good

And would suffice.

## Job Seekers Must First Find Signup Sheet

If you'd like to meet with the representative from Carney, Sandoe & Associates who'll visit Bread Loaf next Tuesday, there are still a few open appointment times left. Sign up outside the Office if you're considering using CSA to assist you in an independent school job search.

## Pederson, Others Armed with "License to Gil"

The Men of Gilmore are more than happy to continue to let other dorms sponsor their Thursday readings, as Article VII of the "License to Gil" agreement stipulates that the parties shall still be held at Gilmore, enabling its Guys to avoid both the requisite party planning and an inconvenient weekly trek to a distant party site. Tonight, the men of Cherry and Barn East serve as your hosts-on-the-hill for a bonfire and faculty reading. The two-dorm alliance was not thought necessary until each dorm became aware that locating a suitable (read: remotely comprehensible) passage from within the pages of *Ellen* requires no fewer than sixteen people, as no single person can endure searching through Battell's torpor-inducing prose for more than fifteen minutes before needing to be relieved. You're cordially invited up to Gilmore anytime after 9 tonight; the readings will commence sometime around 10.

## Pretty Hard Demands of Top Ten Leave Campus Competitors Confused

I must stress that, despite the potential for sincere and plausible responses to the *Top Ten Ways to Lure Seamus Heaney Back Next Year*, the *Crumb* is not looking for actual ideas, such as "Award him an honorary degree" or "Offer him a whole pile of money."

Consider the shortcomings of this purely literal Top Ten list, for example:

### Top Ten People Who Guessed that Wordsworth Visited Tintern Abbey on July 13, 1798

10. Alison Lemoine.
9. Brian Kosnik.
8. Gary Montano
7. Kelli Reno
6. Team Pederson/Kaplan
5. Jay Crawford-Kelly
4. Liz Bedell
3. Kurt Broderson

Aside from the obvious anticlimax of not having a #2 or a #1, the biggest issue here is that literal answers aren't even funny (except, perhaps, for "Andy Pederson"). If you plan to submit your ideas for the *Top Ten Ways to Lure Seamus Heaney Back Next Year*, remember that the *Crumb* intends to publish only those non-literal ideas that are "humorous" or "clever" or "insulting" or "vaguely suggestive in a way that permits inclusion in a family publication while allowing informed adults to laugh knowingly at the innuendo." Ideas are due by 10 tomorrow morning to guarantee thorough adjudication and accurate rankings.

## Party Happening Down in Rochester

Charles Danhof, Aaron Clayton, and Aaron Snyder invite everyone to a party at their house in Rochester on Friday night. The bonfire, beverages and fun start around 8:30, with a fireworks show scheduled for around nine. E-mail Charles or call him at (802) 767-4756 if you'd like directions.

## Student Must Sell Car Before She's Audi Here

Lindsay Wetzel MUST sell her '96 Chevy Blazer before she heads to Germany, so she's looking to entertain offers. She describes the vehicle as "basically a mobile home" – power windows/doors/mirrors, 4WD, "multifarious other lovely accountrements" – and it's a cool shade of dragonfly green. Call Lindsay at 388-7695 if you're interested in taking a look.

## The Rules, According to Coyle

The *Crumb* Bum received a missive from "Worried Commuter" requesting insight into the alarming and enigmatic signs reading "Frost Heaves" that appear on many a Vermont road. Some say the signs alert motorists to roads whose surfaces may have buckled or altered when water gets pulled up from the underlying soil into minute cracks in the asphalt, then freezes and expands, thus rendering the road potentially treacherous. (In other words, nothing you should concern yourself about, Worried C., unless the weather forecast becomes unusually dire for this time of year.)

But legend and science often tell different stories, and yes, my children, the legend of the Frost Heaves signs is one that I know well. In fact, my predecessor, former *Crumb* Editor Hugh Coyle (back in the days when the Editor was a dignified personage, not today's Bum) told the story to me when I was a young Bread Loafer, and so I pass his version, from the *Crumb* Archives from 1997, on to you here:

"Many years ago, an (in)famous rivalry developed at Bread Loaf between resident poet Archibald MacLeish and Robert Frost. Rumor has it that Frost once set fire to a sheaf of manuscripts during one of MacLeish's readings in order to express his sour opinion of his colleague's works. Subsequently, MacLeish set out on his own campaign of vicious criticism. Knowing that Frost had alienated a good many Riptonites with his antics during the Sunday softball games, MacLeish approached the townspeople and begged them to help with his plan. He hired local sign makers to write the words "Frost Heaves" in black letters on a yellow background as a warning to all who might even consider reading Frost's heavily rhythmical works. The signs were then erected on Ripton's most scenic roadways, thereby contaminating the landscape which Frost knew and loved. Some of those signs remain today, a testimony to the bitter battle of the Bread Loaf poets."

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 14

Friday, July 15, 2005

?????

**Which Booker Prize-winning author would have turned 86 today?**

**What's Up**

**Friday**

**Yoga**

2:00-3:15, Barn 2

**Coffeehouse**

9:00, Barn

**Saturday**

**Frost Picnic**

6:00, Frost Farm

**Dance**

9-1, Barn

**Sunday**

**Ultimate**

4:00, Field

**Blue Parlor**

7:30, Blue Parlor

**Sexual**

**Orientation**

**Discussion**

8:45, Blue Parlor

**Menu**

Grandmère's pot roast or coconut and chick pea ragout; balsamic tossed beets; Boursin mashed potatoes; fortune cookies for dessert.

**Weather**

**Today:**

Mostly sunny, 89/63.

**Saturday:**

Cloudier, 85/67.

**Sunday:**

Isolated T-storms, 82/66.

## Coffeehouse: Just Stars, No Bucks

As impressed as you've been with the intellectual abilities on display every day in your classes, you'll be amazed at the talents your fellow Loafers possess in other disciplines – music, comedy, magic, and all sorts of other realms – which they'll showcase for your rousing entertainment at tonight's Coffeehouse. The freely dispensed exquisite gourmet coffee and biscotti will add to the air of conviviality and good cheer. The show starts at 9 and is expected to run about an hour.

## Yoga Reaches Out to New Members

"Relaxing workout" is normally an oxymoron, but yoga soothes the soul while stretching the muscles. Anyone interested in an hour or so of yoga should come to the Barn this afternoon at 2:00. The class is open to participants of all skill levels.

## Hope You're Feeling Blue on Sunday

Like any genuine old New England house, the Inn doesn't seem to have any right angles in it, but we put its structural quirks to good use sometimes. For example, the fact that the floor of the Blue Parlor slopes noticeably towards 125 makes it unsuitable for a game of marbles but provides the Blue Parlor readers with a kind of raked stage upon which to perform.

This Sunday, it'll be Mark Elberfeld, Nicole Derse, Ben Landry, and Clare MacKenzie taking the podium to share their work. The reading starts at 7:30, and everyone is invited.

## Orientation Conversation Invitation

Jonathan Strong writes: "Arthur Little and I will be welcoming members of the Bread Loaf community to an ongoing discussion of issues of sexual orientation every Sunday in the Blue Parlor after the readings, which is to say about 8:45. In an era of threatened constitutional amendments, gay rights is a subject likely to confront many teachers. Let's help each other with things sometimes difficult to explore in schools, and let's look for support here from each other."

## Charlie Orr Race: Fun Run in Sun

A reminder that the annual Charlie Orr 5K Race will be held on August 6 at 9:30 a.m. The race is a Bread Loaf tradition, and a very friendly and low-key affair. Some run, some walk, some walk their dogs, some bring children in tow – take the course at whatever speed you please, although it's probably wise not to stop to read the poems along the Frost Trail if you aim to finish among the leaders. It's free to join in the fun, but the Front Desk is selling Charlie Orr T-shirts for \$10 to help sustain the scholarship fund that was established to commemorate Charlie's memory after his tragically early death. The course runs from John's Pond to the Frost Trail and back, and Peter Newton points out that this year we have a REAL pond in which to cool off after finishing. Sign up outside the Dining Hall if you'd like to participate.

## Girl With a Purloined Earring

Sara Blair has lost a small gold ear-cuff, somewhere in the grass outside the dining hall during a rousing post-dinner game of spud. Should anyone happen to find it, she would be very grateful for its return.

## Dancing Fools

If last week's Barn Dance is any indication, what musical talent and sophisticated tastes Bread Loafers possess will be on display exclusively during the Coffeehouse and not during Saturday's dance from 9-1. Consider the following facts if you dispute the allegation that Bread Loaf dances are less than cutting-edge affairs:

- Though the Macarena was widely mocked upon its release and continues to inspire critical disdain, there were at least 80 people dancing to it last week, most of whom still knew the steps perfectly. (Full disclosure: the *Crumb* Bum was proudly one of those 80.)
- There were actual requests, from persons whose names I will refrain from identifying out of decency, for the following artists: Young MC, The Weather Girls, and (most scarily of all) Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers.

Now, you can drag out your literary jargon and say that these acts bespeak only an "conscious engagement of irony" or a "subversive mockery of contemporary culture," but let's be honest – you know all the words to "Baby Got Back," you don't change the station when "Y.M.C.A." comes on, and you secretly like Hanson. It's OK. You're among friends here. We all get a charge out of the Bee Gees and Duran Duran and Christina Aguilera, and your DJ's will keep you groovin' to old favorites and new finds all night.

## Frost Picnic's Noble Home is Homer Noble

The forecast for tomorrow is decidedly more friendly than it was for last Saturday, so the Frost Picnic looks like it might come off as planned (or re-planned) tomorrow night. Paul Muldoon will welcome ALL Bread Loafers, including off-campus residents and their families, to his summer home at the Homer Noble Farm, and Jen Hansum and Maggie Favretti will lead tours of the Frost Cabin starting at 5:30. To get to the Homer Noble Farm, walk up the dirt road next to the Robert Frost Wayside on 125 or take one of the Front Desk shuttle vans that will begin departing at 5:30. (Parking at the Homer Noble Farm is extremely limited, so don't drive up the dirt road unless it's absolutely essential.) Bring plenty of Off! or Skin So Soft to ward off bugs on the walk up; that far back into the woods, the mosquitoes are likely to be the size of Asher.

## Something to Mull Doin' on Monday

Bread Loaf returns the favor on Monday by inviting Paul to campus to read his poetry in the Barn at 7:30. Paul says that the poems will be mostly new ones, which means that – in theory – anything you do at the Frost Picnic might reappear on Monday in the form of a villanelle or a terza rima haiku. (Just so you're forewarned.) You should still get there early to secure a good vantage point, but the new Barn cushions mean that everyone will get a comfy seat.

## Tennis Signups Under the Net Projections

There's been plenty of interest shown in the men's singles, men's doubles, and mixed doubles portions of Wimbleloaf 2005, but strangely no signups yet for women's singles or women's doubles. (Actually, the shrewd move would be to be the *only* person to register for either, or both, thus guaranteeing victory without breaking a sweat.) Tournament draws will be posted early next week, so sign up outside the Dining Hall by Sunday to be assured of a slot.

## See the Sequence of Snapshots

The all-school photo, as well as snapshots of various other Bread Loaf constituencies, will soon be posted above the Front Desk for you to admire and, if you so desire, order.

## "Mr. Rochester" Hosts Party, Promises No Mad Woman in Attic

Charles Danhof reminds Bread Loafers that they're all invited to a party tonight at the Rochester house he's sharing with Aaron Clayton and Aaron Snyder. The party will get going around 8:30, but Charles assures those desiring to stick around for the Coffeehouse that they're welcome to head down to Rochester afterwards. To get to their house, drive east on 125 until you reach the end of the road in Hancock. Take a right on Route 100, drive 2.5 miles and take a left on Quarry Hill Road. Drive half a mile, then bear right on a dirt road, which is Marsh Brook Road. You'll be in the woods, but after a couple miles, you'll reach a major clearing. They're right after that, the purple house on the right, 1200 Marsh Brook Road. If you get lost or have further questions, you can call the house at (802) 767-4756.

## I Do Prophesy th'Electric Lights on Fortinbras

The lights will go up next Wednesday on the first major production of the summer, a staged reading of Lee Blessing's comedy *Fortinbras*. Described as "taking up where Shakespeare's *Hamlet* left off," it was chosen by *Time Magazine* as one of the year's 10 best plays when it premiered in 1991. Blessing calls it a "metaphysical farce"; written in the spirit of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, the play creates a comic re-visioning of a minor character in Shakespeare's classic, a character referred to as his probable heir by Hamlet himself but who, in fact, is often cut from productions of Hamlet altogether. Blessing's young Fortinbras is a modern man of action who encounters an unbelievable situation (the murders in Elsinore and his sudden elevation to king), an army out of control, seductive and otherwise troublesome ghosts, and other incredible challenges as he tries to rule his new kingdom and to create a new "truth" about the story of Prince Hamlet. You won't want to miss this humorous extension of a classic tale.

## Special K's

Kelli Reno, Kurt Broderson, Team Pederson/Kaplan, and Jay Crawford-Kelly all knew that Florence Bascom, born 143 years ago yesterday, was the first American woman to earn a Ph.D. (Several contributors pointed out that this may have been because no M.Litt. was yet obtainable.) All four correctly identified her despite what one of them called "the most ambiguous *Crumb* trivia question ever." Today's, I think you'll find, is phrased much more straightforwardly—but that doesn't mean it'll be easier to figure out.

## We're Dublin the List This Week

There were so many good submissions for Ways to Lure Seamus Heaney Back Next Year that the Top Ten has become the Top Twenty this week. It's fairly obvious that this outpouring of ideas is a sign of how enthusiastically Bread Loaf would welcome his return. If that unbounded enthusiasm isn't enough, perhaps the clever responses below, which Jean and Paul are planning to forward to Mr. Heaney himself, will convince him that Bread Loaf is a community of scholars and wits well worth visiting again.

### Top Ten (and Another Ten For Good Measure) Ways to Lure Seamus Heaney Back Next Year

20. Add wine cellar and hot tub to Frost Cabin. (OX)
19. Hrothgar summons him! (SFLL)
18. Offer him a chance to take Paul Muldoon's poetry class - FOR FREE! (CA)
17. Offer help in composing "Beowulf II: Electric Boogaloo." (SFLL)
16. Tell him we've discovered a new manuscript of *The Cure at Troy* here in the hills of VT. (HP6)
15. Have Heaney's face added to the white marble bust of Frost in the Inn ala Mount Rushmore. (CA)
14. Chef Jim will serve full Irish breakfast...every day. (DA)
13. Geats gone wild! Foxy ladies wearing nothing but chain mail. (SFLL)
12. Calmly explain that Emily Bartels dances on the tables like that every weekend. (BOBE)
11. Tell him he can stay in Barn East. (BOBE)
10. Commission a poem about Old Piney and invite him to the Gilmore reading to recite it. (HP6, DA)
- 9a. One word: Jamesons (BOBE)
- 9b. All the mead he can drink. (DR)
- 9c. Bushmills...lots of it. (HP6)
- 9d. Engage the Army Corps of Engineers to reroute the Otter Creek through the center of campus, and fill its banks with creamy Guinness. (SFLL, DA)
8. Provide opportunities to play Captain Underpants-Spiderman-Black Wing Thing with Asher. (DA)
7. Invite the Fab Five to give him a makeover on "Queer Eye for the Nobel Laureate Guy." (SFLL)
6. Johnson pond to be renamed "Loch Seamus." (BOBE)
5. Endow a chair for the study of Irish stuff. (CA)
4. A trail of soda bread crumbs. (HP6)
3. Threaten to reveal his crippling addiction to Danielle Steele novels. (BOBE)
2. Tell him that next time he comes he won't have to help Muldoon with any yard work. (BOBE)
1. Build a farm not far from campus and tell him that Yeats lived there... hey... it worked with Muldoon! (SFLL)

Current standings: Current standings: Santa Fe Fighting Llamas (SFLL) 16; Boys of Barn East (BOBE) 15; Cherry-Atrics (CA) 7; Director's Assistants (DA) 6; Hennelly Party of 6 (HP6) 4; Men of Annex (MOA) 2; Off-Campus (With Offspring) (OCWO) 2; Virginia (V) 2; Oxford Seniors (OX) 2; Robbie Harold (RH) 1; Daniel Ruff (DR) 1.

# The Crumbledore

*The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English Wizardry*

Volume 86, Number 15

Monday, July 18, 2005

????

Which canonical author does J.K. Rowling currently call her favorite?

## What's Up

**Madrigalists**  
5:00, Barn

**Teachers & Writers Collaborative Info Session**  
5:30, Barn 1

**Paul Muldoon Reading**  
7:30, Barn

**Reception Afterwards,**  
Treman

## Menu

Potato-crusted salmon with red pepper couli or white lasagna.

Dessert's a surprise.

## Weather

**Today**  
Scattered T-storms, 84/70.

**Tomorrow**  
PM T-storms, 90/65.

**Wednesday**  
Mostly sunny (and a little cooler!), 83/61.

## Professor McGonnaGo Warns:

### "Don't Slyther In Late to Muldoon's Must-Hear Reading"

All campus stairways, pathways, and hallways have been instructed to re-orient themselves this evening to channel all Bread Loafers to the Barn, and if you have a Marauder's Map, you'll notice everyone heading in that direction after dinner. The reason is simple: Paul Muldoon, known to us as our resident Professor of Word-Wizardry (and to the Muggle world as the winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for his volume *Moy Sand and Gravel*), will be reading from his work there at 7:30. Paul has passed along the news that tonight's poems will be "mostly new," just another reason for those already familiar with Paul's playful and searching work to attend. A reception will follow in Treman.

## Harmony Granger

The Madrigalists will meet this afternoon in the Barn to continue their preparations for their end-of-summer concert series. Singers are reminded to leave their owls at home for the duration of the rehearsal, as their hootings have been known to throw the group off-key.

## Fortinbras a Half-Bloodied Prince

You might be momentarily baffled tomorrow night when, having settled into your seat in the Theatre, the lights go up on a stage littered with bodies. No, you're not late; no, you haven't missed all the action. You're just watching the Acting Ensemble's staged reading of Lee Blessing's *Fortinbras*, which picks up where *Hamlet* leaves off. This 1991 "metaphysical farce," written in the style of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, follows Fortinbras as he works to make sense of the unexpected carnage, troublesome ghosts, and general disorder with which his entrance is greeted. The show begins at 7:30 and promises to be a highly entertaining production.

## Be EPrepared for EPortfolio Workshops

Caroline Eisner will be holding two workshops on EPortfolios, first on Thursday, July 21 from 7-9 in Barn 1 and continuing on Tuesday, July 26 (same time and place). People should make an effort to attend the first meeting, because the Tuesday meeting will pick up where the Thursday one left off.

## Director Seeks Actors for a Spell

Mary Hafey Johnson (Hafey on BreadNet) needs three willing students to work on a 10-15 minute play for Alan MacVey's class. The characters are a young woman, her mother, and a doctor. If interested please drop her a note or e-mail ASAP so practice can begin.

## Chamber of Seacrest

Friday's Coffeehouse featured some performances of *American Idol* quality (or of superior quality, if you think less highly of the program than the Fox execs do). Courtney Rein and Masha Wasilewsky performed two spectacular violin pieces, Larry Bounds amazed the audience (especially the Muggles) with his magic, Raja and Reshma and their partners wowed the assembled crowd with a Bollywood dance, and the other serious and not-so-serious acts contributed to the memorable evening.

## Doug Wood Blossoms Again at BL

Visitors from the National Academy for Excellent Teaching at Teachers College, Columbia University, are on campus Monday and Tuesday. NAfET, a professional development program for New York schools, is directed by Doug Wood, Bread Loaf 1997. Welcome!

Joining the NAfET group are two representatives from Teachers and Writers Collaborative – Jeffrey Rosales, TWC Program Director, and Gia Ulmer, Artist-in-Residence. Jeffrey and Gia will talk about TWC publishing opportunities for teachers and writers in Barn 1 today from 5:30-6. All are welcome.

## Take Alex Along If You Have Broom

Alex Levin's car has just died on the mountain, and no Muggle mechanic or *Vehicure!* spell has been able to fix it. He's desperately seeking a ride to NYC on Thursday after 5:00 p.m. and will heap gratitude and, perhaps, valuable gifts upon anyone who can offer him a lift on his or her Nimbus 2000, Cleansweep 5, or Firebolt.

## Defense Against Dark Hearts

It's too bad that during the school year, when you feel sad that you're not at Bread Loaf, you can't just hop on the Ripton spur of the Hogwarts Express or Apparate into the Inn lobby at dinnertime. You can, however, order photographs that will remind you of your time here. The all-school, faculty, staff, waiter, BLTN, and senior photos have been posted above the Front Desk, where you can order yourself a copy.

Unfortunately, prints are only available in Muggle styles (stationary, silent figures presented in the positions they occupied when the shutter opened), as too many people ordered the Wizard-style Faculty photo and then demanded advice on lesson-plans, paper grading, and the like from the animated figures within.

## Cowboy Hat Meets Invisibility Cloak

Beth Stanitski's trademark cowboy hat has gone missing since Friday's dinner, and she's offering a rich reward in return for its return. If you jokingly Transmogrified it into a chipmunk, please Transmogrify it back to its original state (if it was you, Neville, have someone else do it for you); if you tossed it into the Whomping Willow, well, have fun retrieving it.

## Scary Putter

The 4<sup>th</sup> (we think) Usually-Annual Bread Loaf Golf Scramble will tee off on Sunday, August 7 at 10:00 a.m. A signup sheet has been posted outside the Dining Hall for those interested in participating. It's helpful to know that the format of this team tournament is friendly to all golfers: after everyone on your team hits their tee shots, you choose the best one, and everyone hits again from there, and so on until you put the ball in the hole.

Golf is a sport of honor, so we expect you to adhere to the rules that you may *not* use your wand as one of your quota of fourteen clubs, you may *not* summon the Herbicidia Charm to extricate your ball from a bad lie or remove a threatening tree limb from its likely path, and you may *not* substitute any kind of Shrinking, Quiver-Inducing, or Slug-Belching Potion for your fellow-competitors' Gatorade.

## "Ground Quidditch" Tournament Begins

Not everyone just picks up Quidditch as fast as Harry did, waltzing onto the Gryffindor squad as a first-year. Some people need to hone their skills by playing "tennis," a kind of Snitchless, Bludger-free ground Quidditch in which players simply bat a bright yellow ball back and forth above a harmless "net." Such players will be happy to find the draws for the men's singles, men's doubles, and mixed doubles Wimbleloaf tournaments posted outside the Dining Hall. Please try to play your opening-round matches promptly and record your scores so this year's tournament can actually finish before the end of the summer.

As usual, the courts have been placed under the protection of a Protego Charm, rendering any attempts to use magic to control the flight of the ball inoperative. Note that although the use of "spin" may make the ball bounce crazily and appear to be under some kind of *Erraticus* spell, it is a legitimate Muggle tactic and is therefore permitted.

## Hufflepuffs Won't Huff-n-Puff with Fun 5K Run

The Charlie Orr 5K, to be held on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m., is emphatically a Fun Run (or a Jolly Jog, or a Pleasant Perambulation) in which everyone is invited to participate. Unlike more competitive road races, no Peruvian Vipertooth will be released shortly after the starting gun to impel the runners to keep up the pace, and Ed Brown assures everyone that the Giant Squid that lives in John's Pond has promised not to interfere with the traditional post-race communal dip.

There's no charge to run the race, but you can purchase a race T-shirt for \$10 (sorry, the Front Desk doesn't accept Galleons or Knuts) and feel good that you've helped support the Charlie Orr Memorial Scholarship Fund.

## Top 10 Answers Now Earn House Points

The Ben & Jerry's in Middlebury may have inexplicably closed (or relocated to a new site in Diagon Alley which this Muggle author has not yet been able to find), but the company is still going strong and looking to diversify its product line to compete with Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans. The ice cream magnates are considering a product line exclusively for Bread Loafers, so if you'll submit your ideas for the **Top Ten Literary-Themed Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Flavors** to the *Crumb* by Thursday morning, he'll publish the best ones in that day's issue and submit the candidates to the powers-that-be at the parent company.

## Only Three Find Trivia Answer a Snape; A Lady's the Answer Again Today

Even Hermione Granger admitted that she was stumped by the latest trivia question, but Kurt Broderson, Kelli Reno, and Team Pederson/Kaplan soldiered on to figure out that Iris Murdoch would have turned 86 on Friday. It might not be easy to identify the author who's earned J.K. Rowling's admiration, because the clue might not help you much, because you might not find the answer online, and because all the texts that might provide answers have been removed to the Restricted Section of Davison, under the watchful eyes of Leo Hotte and Argus Filch.

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86 Number 16

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

????

If you ranked  
the 35  
speaking roles  
in Hamlet by  
number of  
lines spoken,  
where would  
*Fortinbras* (27  
lines) finish?

## What's Up

Carney-Sandoe  
Meetings  
9-2, Blue Parlor

Soccer  
7:00, Field

*Fortinbras*  
staged Reading  
7:30, Theatre

## Menu

BBQ meatloaf  
with corn &  
cheddar mashed  
potatoes or harvest  
ravioli with  
mushroom ragout;  
dessert, once  
again, is Chef  
Jim's surprise.

## Weather

Today  
Scattered T-  
storms, 88/66.

Tomorrow  
Sunny but no  
relief from the  
heat, 88/62.

Thursday  
Isolated T-  
storms, 89/65.

## Fortinbras Likely, When Put On, To Prove Most Royal

"The truth can't be changed, but it can be ignored," the posters for tonight's staged reading of *Fortinbras* proclaim. The curtains fall on most every production of *Hamlet* with little indication of how the upstart Norwegian prince, not entirely in the good graces of his uncle the King and commanding a hastily assembled army of sharked-up lawless resolutees, is going to manage the remarkable situation thrust so unexpectedly into his hands. Tonight, however, you'll see how one playwright hilariously envisions the whole mess turning out, as the Acting Ensemble presents Lee Blessing's *Fortinbras* tonight in the Theatre at 7:30. The action picks up just before the end of *Hamlet* and then careens onward from there. *Fortinbras* – called a "metaphysical farce," "a cheeky comedy," and "one funny show" – proves that the play can be changed, but it can't be ignored. See you there.

## Another Event Not to Be Middst

It should come as no surprise to hear that Bread Loaf's talent pool runs deeper than the student body and faculty; come to the annual Writers in the Middst reading tomorrow at 7:30 in the Blue Parlor to listen to Jean Hanff Korelitz (wife of Paul Muldoon), Michele Stepto (wife of Robert), and Scott Elledge (partner of Jonathan Strong) read from their work. Refreshments will be provided!

## Soccer Gets Room of Once Mown

The soccer players are extremely grateful to the grounds crew for cutting a very respectable soccer space out of the field for the Tuesday and Thursday games. The ample size of the playing field means that more players can certainly be accommodated. If you're interested in kicking the ball around for a little while tonight, troop out to the field at 7 for a little friendly exercise.

## If You're Shaped for Sportive Tricks

Wimbleloaf gets underway this week – check the draws posted outside the Dining Hall to find out your first-round opponent – and it's also time to sign up for the traditional end-of-summer Bread Loaf Golf Scramble. The format caters to golfers of all abilities, as bad shots generally don't count against your team score. Sign up – where else? – outside the Dining Hall for the August 7<sup>th</sup> event.

## Earn Brownie Pts. for Top Ten Tastes

No doubt inspired by General Mills' recent foray into literature-based breakfast cereal ("Othell-O's, "Flaubert Flakes"), Ben & Jerry's has followed suit, and they're looking to Bread Loaf for the Top Ten Literary-Themed Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Flavors. Send your flavor-ites to the *Crumb* Bum by Thursday morning (remember the long weekend?), and he'll publish the best submissions in that day's issue.

## Take the Road Less Traveled

Two roads diverge at the East Middlebury General Store; if you take 125 to 7, long you'll have stood and looked out of your car window as long as you could at a line of traffic waiting to trickle through the road construction between here and town. To get to Middlebury, take 116 to Quarry Road, as having no doubt the better claim, as there's less traffic and less despair (and rest assured, your passing there won't wear it really about the same). Oh, save Route 7 for another day! Yes, even though way leads on to way, you'll certainly have a chance to come back. You shall be telling this with a smile, sometime tonight or tomorrow or hence: "Two roads diverged in East Midd, and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that made, like, thirty minutes' difference."

## Assistants Eager to Hear Your Desire, Help Make It Reality

The Director's Assistants are still looking for a dorm or group willing to sponsor next Saturday's Suppressed Desires dance. They'll gladly reimburse you for the cost of decorations, party favors, and best-costume prizes, and of course you won't have to worry about finding a DJ or stocking up on Otter Creek, as they've got those things covered already. Unless someone steps up to the plate, I fear, the theme of Suppressed Desires 2005 will be "Barn!", with the winners of the costume competition receiving only a piece of firewood for their creativity. Surely some group among you can do better than that – if you harbor even the slightest desire to help out, don't let it remain suppressed – see one of the Assistants ASAP.

## Vacation Brings Marty Moose Sighting

While Seamoose may have vanished (see last story), the land moose is alive and well, as Marty Rutherford sends word that he spotted a big ol' bull moose, and two foxes to boot, on 125 earlier this week.

## Pederson, Kaplan Lose Austen Powers

Team Pederson/Kaplan's streak of correct answers came to an end on the same night Johnny Damon's hitting streak was halted, as the wise waiters weren't able to identify J.K. Rowling's current favorite author. The answer was Jane Austen, whose first pseudonym, "A Lady," appeared in one of yesterday's headlines. Congratulations to Jean Hanff Korelitz, the Exiles on Main Street (Robbie Harold, Paul Parsons, Betsy Unger, and others), Daniel Ruff, and Kurt Broderson (now tied with Team P/K) for their correct answers. There are no clues in today's headlines given the nature of the trivia question, but you should be able to make at least a ballpark guess on your own. (Hint: Hamlet has more lines, so Fortinbras is #2 at best.)

## Oh, Say, Can You See Seamoose?

BREAD LOAF, Vermont (AP): Yesterday Bread Loaf changed. The petty jealousies and inscrutable machinations of the real world, usually held at bay by this idyllic spot, have insidiously wormed their way into our community. What you've heard is true. Waitstaff mascot Seamoose (a.k.a. Ol' Sharkey) has been kidnapped.

The unannounced absence of the smiling, inflatable plastic dolphin was first ascribed to the unusual stretch of hot and humid weather we have been experiencing; early theorizing centered on the idea that Seamoose might have just headed out for a cool dip in John's Pond with his froggie friends. The delivery of an apron – later confirmed to be the one Seamoose was last seen wearing – and a ransom note with a recipe for "Broiled Shark Remoulade" attached confirmed the staff's worst fears. Kirsten Rohstedt had this to say about this extremely difficult course of events.

"I'm speaking now to the person who is holding our dolphin. Seamoose is very gentle and kind – talk to him and you'll see. You have the power. You're in charge. I know you can feel love and compassion.

"You have a wonderful chance to show the whole world that you can be merciful, as well as strong. That you're big enough to treat Seamoose better than the world has treated you. You have that power. Please. My dolphin is Seamoose. Please release my little guy."

(Boy, is that smart... Jesus, that's really smart. She keeps repeating the name. If he sees Seamoose as a person – not just an object, it's harder to tear him up or – perish the thought – deflate the little guy.)

Bread Loaf Acting Director Emily Bartels assured the community that "I don't give a hoot what happens to that thing; I like dolphin steak, you know. I think that – what? We're what? We're rolling the cameras? (Clears throat) Well, first let me say how deeply *appalled* I am about this lamentable situation, and I pledge that I will do everything within my power to ensure Seamoose's safety and bring his abductors to justice."

Bread Loaf Director Jim Maddox, sojourning in Alaska, said he was "deeply concerned," although when asked whether his concern was directed at the hostage crisis or at Acting Director Bartels' ability to resolve the situation peacefully, he feigned an inability to hear the reporter's question and rejoined his whale-watching expedition.

Please take it easy on your waiter during lunch today – if they bring you the veggie option when you asked for meat, or pour coffee in your water glass, or explode "I can't, I just *can't!*!" when all you did was ask for a new fork, remember that they are enduring a family crisis.

The waiters promise that anyone with information leading to Seamus' safe return will receive extra-special service for the remainder of the summer – they'll retrieve whatever you want from the salad bar, make sure your meal order gets bumped to the front of the line, and sweep crumbs from your table between every course.

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 17

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

## ◀ SHARKEY HELD HOSTAGE

## CRISIS DAY FOUR ▶

????
<i>Which prizewinning American author turns 72 today – and published a new novel this week as well?</i>

### What's Up

Yoga 5:00, Barn 2
Director's Reception 5:00, West Lawn
Ultimate 7:00, Field
Writers in the Middst 7:30, Blue Parlor
Spoken Word Poetry Workshop 7:30, Barn 1

### Menu

Jamaican jerk chicken with quinoa pilaf or black bean and sweet potato enchiladas; greens with citrus vinaigrette; Kentucky spice cake.

### Weather

Today Sunny, 89/62.
Tomorrow Sunny, 91/66.
Friday Scattered storms, 87/62.

After watching *Fortinbras* last night, the *Crumb*

Bum began wondering why you couldn't extend every Shakespeare play beyond its original conclusion. Who wouldn't want to find out what happens to Iago, or whether Kate & Petruchio can long stand each other? Accordingly, some additional possibilities for picking up where the Bard left off:

### Writers in the Middst

*Tell My Story!* (continuation of *Hamlet*): Horatio attempts to obey Hamlet's dying wishes by telling his story to the masses, but fails to attract any attention as everyone else is in the Blue Parlor at 7:30 listening to the **Writers in the Middst** reading, featuring Scott Elledge, Michele Stepto, and Jean Hanff Korelitz. Refreshments provided.

### This Story's a Bit of a Stretch

*Hermione* (continuation of *The Winter's Tale*): Before anything else, Hermione attends yoga class at 5 today in Barn 2 to stretch her aching muscles after having impersonated a lifeless statue for the better part of half an hour. Then she can attend to reconciling herself with Leontes and getting caught up with Perdita's schoolwork, crush on that hottie Florizel, etc., etc.

### Go, Go, Go!

Continuation of *King Lear*: Gloucester, seeking purpose in life after being blinded by Cornwall, finds inspiration in *Ray*, the story of Ray Charles' journey through incredible adversity to stardom, showing at 9 on **Friday in the Barn**. Lear's ghost, finally at peace, returns to Barn at the same time the next night for *Young Frankenstein*; now finds humor in protagonist's growing madness, man's inability to manipulate universe, lightning storm, Teri Garr.

### Something Other than Dancing Measures

Continuation of *As You Like It*: The four newly wedded couples, having been promised the "rustic revelry" of a dance, are initially disappointed to find out that **there is no Barn Dance this weekend**, as most of the campus will have decamped elsewhere. However, their spirits are raised by Touchstone's reminder of what married couples do after they're joined and after they dance, and they all retire happily to their various castles, manors, cottages, and farmhouses.

### Crossing New England This Weekend?

(continuation of *Richard II*): King Henry, though having vowed to make a voyage to the Holy Land to wash Richard's blood from his guilty hands, shows underlying insincerity by refusing to give *Masha Wasilewsky a ride to Boston* over the break or even take Matt Peterson to the VT/NH border, where I-89 intersects with I-91, sometime on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.

### Exit Stage Everywhere

Continuation of *Titus Andronicus*: Minimalist, Beckett-esque production, as there really isn't anyone left at the end of *Titus* to carry on the story. Stage mostly empty and silent, as campus will be during long weekend (no classes, Office closed, Cornwall closed). Weekend meal hours begin with Thursday's dinner. The Front Desk will be open, mail will be delivered as usual, and Middlebury and the rest of the real world will be open for business.

### Photo Finish, T's Terminating

*I Fought at Agincourt, and All I Got Was...* (continuation of *Henry V*): British soldiers, after first flush of triumph yields to practical concerns, pillage the French countryside in search of souvenirs of their journey and better clothes than the chain mail and battle-soiled jerkins they've been sporting. You have an easier time of it; you just have to go to the Front Desk, where you can **order any or all of Ed Brown's Bread Loaf photos** between now and breakfast tomorrow and look at Marge Droege's design for the Class of 2005 T-shirt. Seniors need to pay \$10 (cash only) to either Marge or Susan Chevalier and indicate their size and color preference by Friday morning if you'd like one.

### Portia Ports Portfolios

*Give Me a Ring Sometime* (continuation of *The Merchant of Venice*): Each character attends EPortfolio workshops on Thursday, July 21 and Tuesday, July 26 from 7-9 in Barn 1. Portia uses EPortfolios to organize writings as she pursues promising career in law. Nerissa finds EPortfolios indispensable in managing costume shop. EPortfolios help Shylock assemble material for Supreme Court appeal. Antonio uses EPortfolios in suddenly solvent import/export business, buys GPS monitors for all vessels to prevent mix-ups like the recent debacle over whether those three argosies were wrecked or safely heading to harbor.

### Slam Session Makes You Excited, Pretty Hoarse

Continuation of *Henry VI, Part III*: Thoroughly fed up with speaking relatively wooden blank verse regarding increasingly arcane details of obscure English history, entire cast of *Henry VI* series attends Andi Brown and Mark Otuteye's back-by-popular-demand session of the workshop for Bread Loaf students entitled "toolkits for teaching spoken word poetry" today in Barn 1 at 7:30 p.m. Skills acquired through the workshop enliven future productions of early tetralogy; Jack Cade re-cast as streetwise poetry-slammer whose popular appeal greatly exceeds that of stodgy, meter-bound monarch.

All those interested in learning how to teach spoken word and slam poetry in their classrooms should come to this unique and lively performance and pedagogical workshop. Participants should bring pen/paper and expect to write, perform and learn about spoken word poetry.

## **Jim Shall Be Director Hereafter**

(continuation of *Macbeth*): Upstanding, rightful king Malcolm ascends to throne, seeks to meet with all constituents to calm disrupted kingdom, assure populace of government's good intentions. Extended allegory of current Bread Loaf situation: **Jim Maddox returns from Alaska, would like to meet with all new students who have not yet scheduled an appointment with him.** Loyal Elaine Lathrop assists process by scheduling meeting times.

## **Prospero Bedims Noontide Sun, But Unable to Answer Simple Question**

(continuation of *The Tempest*): Prospero returns to Milan, but cedes dukedom to trusted Ferdinand so he can return to his studies, particularly attempts to answer the *Crumb* trivia question correctly. Without magic staff, drowned book, or Ariel's help, stumped by question of where Fortinbras' 27-line part lands in ranking largest parts in *Hamlet*. Fails to guess as accurately as Daniel Ruff (who guessed 17<sup>th</sup>), Team Pederson/Kaplan (20<sup>th</sup>), or Kurt Broderson (14<sup>th</sup>). My source says 18<sup>th</sup>, following Hamlet (1495), Claudius (550), Polonius (355), Horatio (291), Laertes (206), Ophelia (173), Gertrude (157), Rosencrantz (97), Ghost (95), Clown (93), Marcellus (67), Guildenstern (53), First Player (52), Osric (48), Player King (44), Bernardo (38), and Player Queen (30), but we'll give all the respondents credit for doing the legwork.

## **Tun of Man Seeks Ton of Answers**

Continuation of *2 Henry IV*: Discarded and ignored by the new King, the portly Sir John finds a new venue for both his wit and his appetite in this week's Top Ten list, **Top Ten Literary-Themed Ben & Jerry's Flavors**. He and Poins and Bardolph and the rest spend hours coming up with clever ideas, which they submit to the *Crumb* Bum by tomorrow morning in the hopes of being included in the final list.

## **Happy Everything**

Stop by the Office today to wish Lexa Decourval a day-late Happy Birthday. Be sure to tell her you hope she's feeling better, too, as she had to suffer the gross injustice of falling ill on her birthday.

## **Dear Crumb Bum,**

We at the Alaska campus have been simmering all summer ever since you made it be known far and wide that we had not submitted any responses for the Top Ten list early on. Frankly, we do have better things to do here, even apart from serious studying, such as spending time outside in this glorious country. At any rate, we at this campus challenge anyone on other campuses to submit answers to the following Alaska questions. The first person to submit all correct answers will win a BL Alaska t-shirt. No Alaskans may answer, as well as no one from this campus. Also, no one may be assisted by an Alaskan. Because we have all finished our reading and papers, and we now have time, we can submit this item. Cheers.

Alaskan Women of Repute

Deadline: Thurs. 8 AM Alaska Daylight Time

1. What Sourdough Wannabe ripped off our idea for a Harry Potter edition the other day?
2. What's a kicker?
3. What's the difference between an sperm whale and an Orca?
5. What's the difference between ADT and GMT?
6. Where was Sam McGee buried?
7. What are the 5 types of salmon (no, not kippered, baked, lox, smoked, and grilled)?
8. What food can be made from fireweed?
9. What Native American language has ties to Navajo?
10. What's the difference between a crow and a raven?
11. Name at least 2 famous Alaskan dogs.
12. Who won the Iditarod in 2005?

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 18

Thursday, July 21, 2005

## ◀ SHARKEY HELD HOSTAGE

## CRISIS DAY FIVE ▶

????

*Who wrote the single best-selling volume of poetry in America in the last fifty years?*

### What's Up

Thursday:  
Madrigalists 5:00

E-Portfolios 7-9

Soccer 7:00

Gilmore? 9:00?

Friday:

Yoga 2-3:15

Ray 9:00

Saturday:

Young

Frankenstein 9:00

Sunday:

Ultimate 4:00

Blue Parlor 7:30

Sexual  
Orientation  
Discussion 8:45

### Menu

Steak tips,  
mushroom, and  
Guinness pie with  
horseradish  
mashed potatoes  
or Spanish  
vegetable paella.

### Weather

Break brings a  
break!!!

Th: Sunny, 90.

Fri: Sun &  
clouds, 85.

Sat: Sunny, 81.

Sun: More sun,  
78. Enjoy.

### Emeril'd Be Fun to Watch

Not that you need reminding, but Bread Loaf goes on break tomorrow – classes will not meet, there will be no afternoon van run, and the Office, Cornwall, and Bookstore will all be closed. Meals will be on the weekend schedule. There will be no *Crumb* tomorrow. If you're heading away, hope you enjoy the real world and the manifold pleasures it offers to you this weekend: *The Dukes of Hazzard Movie*, the Friendly's Fribble®, and – you remember – a little friend called "television," which features *Law & Order: Inflatable Dolphin Abduction Unit*, the tireless Emeril Lagasse, and something called *Brat Camp* (a disturbing #4 in last week's Nielsen ratings).

### Professor's Family Insists They're Not Holding Aqua Marine Mammal

The understandable tension surrounding Ol' Sharkey's abduction has resulted in rumor-mongering and wild speculation, namely recent charges that the Green-Lewis family's inflatable sea creature is the missing waitstaff mascot. First, the *Crumb* has confirmed that this is not so – while their creature does bear some superficial resemblance to Sharkey, the Green-Lewis' inflatable aquatic mammal in question is named "Orca" and is actually a member of the killer whale family. Second, Jenny resents the implication that she has raised a family of such absolute moral depravity that any of its members would have contemplated committing this atrocity (although she is mildly flattered by the insinuation that Phoebe, Max, and/or Oliver might, even at their young ages, possess the acuity to have masterminded such a sophisticated plot). And finally, these rampant and unfounded charges typify the kind of breakdown in the social order that is *precisely what these evildoers want to happen*. Please remain calm and be assured that the Waitstaff and the proper authorities are doing everything within their power to resolve the situation. Until then, think of Sharkey, hug your children or inflatable animals, and stay strong.

### If You Don't Hit the Road, Jack

...then you might check out the Barn double feature this weekend, two films (*Ray* tomorrow at 9, and *Young Frankenstein* the next night at the same time) that tell much the same story. Each follows its protagonist as he endures childhood trauma (blindness, the death of a sibling, birth by lightning, having someone else's brain), later adversities (racism, philandering, drug addiction, anti-monster sentiment, finding clothes that fit), and finally achieves notoriety for his music ("Georgia On My Mind," "Putuuuh Oaa Riihuaaa!"). Each is a heartwarming, life-affirming tale of determination, although only one (I won't tell you which one) contains the memorable sentiment "He would have an enormous schwanzstucker!"

### Parlor Tricks

Reading this Sunday in the Blue Parlor will be Kevin Ellis, Christian Clarke, Leslie Howes, and Evelina Zarkh. Their friends, their fans, and everyone else who's eager to hear some first-rate student writing should gather in the Blue Parlor on Sunday at 7:30 to listen to them read from their work.

### Sunday Discussion Group Gathers

Jonathan Strong and Arthur Little invite the Bread Loaf community to the second of this summer's Sunday evening discussions of issues of sexual orientation. The conversations take place immediately following the Blue Parlor readings, usually at about 8:45.

### More Amorphous Gilmore Morsels

Having dedicated the majority of my staff and the preponderance of my journalistic attention to the Ol' Sharkey story, I'm unable to confirm that there will be, as is customary, a Thursday Gilmore event. Perhaps if you go up there at 9 or so, you'll find the usual bonfire, refreshments, and faculty reader. Perhaps you'll find only a darkened shell like the house in *The Blair Witch Project*. Perhaps you'll find no Gilmore residents, but plenty of other students who, finding no festivities awaiting them, rummaged through the dorm until they found something suitable for a humorous reading – perhaps a set of embarrassingly sentimental and pet-name-laden love letters to a Gilmore swain from his absent sweetheart. Perhaps I should stop speculating, lest the Gilmore men appear threateningly at my lunch table. Perhaps you should just wait and see if there's an announcement of one kind or another today.

### Gather Yourselves for First EPortfolio Workshop Tonight

Caroline Eisner will lead the first of two workshops on EPortfolios, an incredibly useful research tool, tonight from 7-9 in Barn 1. A second session will take place on Tuesday from 7-9, and while you can come to the second without having attended the first, Caroline strongly recommends that you try to make both.

### Usual Few Don't Rue Being Right

Kurt Broderson, Team Pederson/Kaplan, Brian Kosnik, Daniel Ruff, and Jay Crawford-Kelly all spotted "Pretty Hoarse" in yesterday's title and knew that the birthday boy was Cormac McCarthy. Just because today's mystery author is far more famous than McCarthy doesn't mean he or she will be easy to identify.

### Madri-Gals Rehearsing at 5

It's certainly not too late to join the Bread Loaf Madrigalists as they prepare for their summer series of

concerts; we'll welcome any interested singers to the Barn for today's rehearsal. Existing Madrigalists are reminded that only the women need to arrive at 5 sharp; we'll work on their all-female number first, then add the men for a full-group rehearsal starting at 5:20.

## The Easiest Course of the Summer

Middlebury's Ralph Myhre Golf Course is a friendly layout where a gigantic slice or a huge hook won't hurt you too badly, and the Bread Loaf Scramble is a tournament whose format won't penalize you for such errant shots, as everyone hits from where your team's best drive ends up. We have space for up to 24 golfers in the August 7 tournament, so sign up outside the Dining Hall to reserve a slot for you or your team.

## Top Ten Brings Out Cone Kings, Dairy Queens

Perhaps the collective campus wit needed three or so weeks to ferment into its finest form; perhaps the recent heat wave had people thinking cool thoughts; perhaps everyone just decided to blow off that Henry James paper that was supposed to be due today. Whatever the reason, the *Crumb*'s inbox was deluged with clever contributions this week, although since EVERYONE hit on "The Rocky Road Not Taken" or some version thereof, NO ONE gets credit for it. Without further ado:

### Top 42,841 Literary-Themed Ben & Jerry's Flavors

38. Shakespearmint (SC, EMS)
37. Candied (SH, SC)
36. Thoreau's Solitude Sorbet (with nuts and berries) (BOBE)
35. Surprised by Soy (SH)
34. Brave New Whirled (SC, BOBE)
33. A Raisin in the Sundae (LOL)
32. Tityos Torture (bottomless liver-flavored delight) (NMM)
31. A Thousand and One Nuts (11)
30. Much Ado About Nuttin' (SC)
29. Nuts from Underground (SC)
28. Chaucerlate Marshmallow (DA)
27. War and Peach (SH, BOBE, SFLL)

26. Rum Raisin in the Sun (11)
25. Cherry Garcia Marquez (OX, SFLL)
24. Lime and Punishment (SH, SFLL)
23. Hester Prynne's Delicious Sin-A-Mon (LOL)
22. Cherry Garcia Girls' Accent (DA)
21. Middlemarshmallow (11)
20. Tender is the Nougat (BOBE)
19. Crunch-22 (BOBE)
18. The Crunch Snack of Notre Dame (SC)
17. Epistemological Solipsism (empty container with mirror at bottom) (SFLL)
16. Meltin' Milton Devil's Food Swirl (DA)
15. Clockwork Orange Sorbet - It's Crazy! (BOBE)
14. Jujube the Obscure (SC)
13. Cinnamon's Wake (11)
12. Chaucer's Chauclete Chunke (BOBE)
11. Where Are You Going? Where Have You Vanilla Bean? (BOBE)
10. Caramelville's Moby Dick (with white chocolate whales) (LOL)
9. 'Tis Pity She's a S'More (11)
8. Waiting for Good Dough (SH, BOBE)
7. Lady Macbeth Goes Bananas (LOL)
6. Heart of Dark Chocolate with Lord Jimmies (CA, OX)
5. Gravity's Rainbow Sherbet (11)
4. The Brothers Caramel Sauce (SH)
3. What the Faulkner? Surprise Crunch (BOBE)
2. Jake Barnes One-Nut Variety (BOBE)
1. Banana Karenina (11, SC, SFLL)

Current standings: Boys of Barn East (BOBE) 26; Santa Fe Fighting Llamas (SFLL) 21; Director's Assistants (DA) 9; Cherry-Atrics (CA) 8; Sarah Chapple (SC) 8; 11 O'Clock Club (11) 7; Hennelly Party of 6 (HP6) 6; Sorina Higgins (SH) 6; Ladies of Larch (LOL) 4; Men of Annex (MOA) 2; Off-Campus With Offspring (OCWO) 2; Oxford Seniors (OX) 2; Virginia (V) 2; Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 2; Daniel Ruff (DR) 1; Not-So-Mannerly Manor (NMM) 1.

**TONIGHT ON LARRY KING: FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH, BILL "THE TUNA" PARCELLS, GRETA VAN SUSTEREN WEIGH IN ON SHARKEY SITUATION • MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED AT MIAMI DOLPHINS MINI-CAMP • PUNDITS SPECULATE ABOUT ROBERTS' STANCE ON SEA-CREATURE-KIDNAPPING CASES • HOUSE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REQUIRING UNDERGARMENT FLAGS TO BE BURNED • HUEY LEWIS, PROCLAIMERS, RAY PARKER JR. RECORD VERSION OF WAITSTAFF'S SHARKEY TUNE AS FUNDRAISING TOOL AND "LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO RESUSCITATE OUR CAREERS" • SEAWORLD PERFORMING ANIMALS SAID TO BE "MOROSE" • "FLIPPER" UNDER 24-HOUR POLICE PROTECTION • MADDOX CONFERRING WITH ALASKAN WHALES ABOUT NEXT STEP • WAITSTAFF'S INFLATABLE DOLLS REMAIN "SAFE," ALBEIT BATTERED • KINNEY DRUG OFFERS WAITSTAFF REPLACEMENT SHARKEY AT SPECIAL EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT PRICE OF \$5.99 • STAR-KIST ADDS PHRASE "SHARKEE FREE" TO LABELS ALREADY PROMISING "DOLPHIN-SAFE" TUNA ATLANTIC DOLPHIN SPOKESPERSON: "EE E EEE EE EEEE EE E EEE E EEE" •**

# THE CRUST

YOUR SOURCE FOR UNOFFICIAL, UNFOUNDED, UNPROFESSIONAL BREAD LOAF NEWS

VOLUME 86, NUMBER 18A

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2005

## Maddox Returns Amid Allegations of Budgetary Impropriety

Bread Loaf Director Jim Maddox arrived back in Vermont early this morning under a cloud of suspicion that he has diverted thousands of dollars intended for the school's facilities and general use funds for personal gain.

Middlebury officials were first alerted to the possibility of wrongdoing when a "Bob's BigScreen World" truck driver looking for "Earthworm Manor" mistakenly reported to the College's shipping and receiving department. Charges that the Wednesday receptions moved from Treman out of Maddox's fear that that building's state-of-the-art home-theater system and faculty-only hot tub would arouse suspicion could not immediately be verified.

"Frankly, I've suspected as much for years," office staff member Judy Jessup told a group of reporters yesterday. "He moans all spring about how he's sick of the car he's driving – the 'Excrement Express,' as he called it once – but right after those deposit checks show up on May 1, he's tooling through Ripton in a new red Ferrari with the top down." Kurt Broderson added, "Normally, Jim schedules his return flights so he can go out to dinner with Lucy, so when he told me his flight from Alaska got in at 12:42 a.m., I couldn't help but wonder whether he was trying to be as inconspicuous as possible this time."

Maddox declined to comment as he elbowed his way through the phalanx of reporters waiting for him at the baggage claim.

## Student Poring Over Imposing "Reserve Text" Actually Reading Harry Potter

Despite her assiduous cultivation of the impression that she is studiously absorbed in a challenging reserve tome, second-year student and Davison Library denizen Cecilia Farquhart has actually been reading a copy of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

Having first erected a bulwark of scholarly texts (*The Idea of the Holy* in Edgar Lee Masters, *New Perspectives on Oliver Goldsmith*) bearing no relation to her summer's course of study, Farquhart removed the easily recognizable dust jacket of the Rowling novel and hunched over it with an air of intense concentration, furrowing her brow to mislead passersby into thinking her to be wrestling with some intricate and elusive point about metrical anomalies in *Paradise Lost* and once even underlining the sentence "Mrs. Weasley and Ginny were bending over the Pygmy Puffs" in a desperate attempt to convince an onlooker that this was most assuredly not pleasure reading.

When confronted about her actions, Farquhart initially professed innocence but capitulated when told that student researchers at two neighboring desks had become suspicious about what secondary source would contain illustrations and elicit muffled guffaws from the reader. Acting Director Emily Bartels commented, "Like so many criminals, Cecilia almost asked to be caught, reading it in the Library instead of finding some remote Adirondack chair out in the field. We'll see that she gets the help she needs, and hopefully she'll be back on a steady diet of Barthes and Steven Greenblatt by the end of the summer."

### Red Pen Inflicted Upon Underwhelming Paper With Increasing Impunity

Professor Isobel Armstrong's comments on an essay for her Romantic Poetry class, at first constructive and restrained, turned overtly hostile and then mordantly irreverent as the paper's lack of coherence, legibility, and insight became evident over its 11 pages.

The marginal notes on the first several pages – "Not sure where you're taking this," "Intriguing concept, but supported by the text?", and "Yes, but the question here is why the line doesn't scan properly" – indicate Armstrong's initial optimism that the paper's premise and methodology, though obviously flawed, might yet be salvageable. By the fourth page, Armstrong had clearly abandoned any pretense of correcting the author's errors of spelling, punctuation, and syntax, which were legion, instead appending comments betokening barely concealed frustration: "Well...", "?", and "Really?" Page 9 featured only a large bracket engirding its one lengthy paragraph and a large, blunt "NO" in the margin.

Pages 10 and 11 were untouched except for the hastily scrawled grade.

## Thesaurus.com an Inconstant Helpmeet, Student Finds

Desperate to avoid using and reusing the verb "signify" to excess in his recent paper on *The Great Gatsby* for Jonathan Freedman's Fictions of Finance class, student Hal Petrovic turned to the presumably reliable online resource Thesaurus.com, only to find the website an unreliable and duplicitous charlatan.

"Although I was able to recognize several obviously flawed suggestions, such as 'high sign' and 'wink,' other ostensible synonyms proved insufficient or inaccurate, according to Professor Freedman," Petrovic said. "I expected more."

"Hal used 'manifest' completely incorrectly, apparently not knowing that it usually necessitates inverting the object and the subject. Gatsby's artificiality can be made manifest in his obviously fabricated creation-myth," Freedman told the *Crust*, "but the medal from Montenegro doesn't 'manifest the elaborate nature of his lies,' as Hal claimed."

"Don't even get me started on how he thought 'conflate' should be used," Freedman chuckled. Although Petrovic declined to comment on that particular error, sources report that the relevant sentence in Petrovic's paper was circled by Freedman and elaborated upon with only a marginal "Huh?"

"I know I need to augment my vocabulary," Petrovic concluded, "and a website probably wasn't the sagest tactic one could have employed. Nevertheless, I expected Thesaurus.com to be a more efficacious and contributive agency than it avouched."

## Acting Ensemble To Be Replaced By Tireless, Super-Intelligent Cyborgs by 2007

Director Jim Maddox, Professor Alan MacVey, and Integrated Technology Department Chair Bruce Daly announced today their plan to replace Bread Loaf's Acting Ensemble with a troupe of robots by 2007.

"We demand that our actors be involved in the classroom during the day and then rehearse at night, and human performers tend to flag near the end of the nineteen-hour days we expect from them," Maddox commented. "Cyborgs don't need to eat or sleep, are not subject to Equity regulations, and can learn their lines in mere seconds. It's really a no-brainer." MacVey added, "Think of how it would energize, say, the end of *Macbeth* if you could just lop Macbeth's head clean off right in front of the audience! You can do that with a cyborg, but human actors just won't push themselves in quite the same way."

When pressed for a more specific timetable, Maddox said, "Who's to say it hasn't started already? Look in McEleny's eyes and tell me you don't fear what you see."

## **Howards End Character Laments Gross Incompetence of Latest Student Reader**

Ruth Wilcox, deceased matriarch of E.M. Forster's *Howards End*, takes umbrage at what she calls the "hare-brained" marginalia of Bread Loafer Cynthia Richardson, who is reading the novel for Jenny Green-Lewis' Bloomsbury course.

"I beg your pardon, but my illness is emphatically not an 'representation of the incipient decline of Victorian repressed sexual energies' — such matters, even if true, would hardly have been appropriate for polite conversation, although, dare I say, such impudent comments from Miss Richardson leave me in no doubt of the erosion of certain standards of deportment, such as the courtesy extended from one lady to another," Mrs. Wilcox continued. "And who on earth could possibly view my son Charles' spat with that awful Mr. Bast as a conflict of 'man vs. nature,' as this simpleton would have it? A preposterous assumption for an exchange of fisticuffs, and a rather jejune comment at that."

Mrs. Wilcox retained such acerbity despite having died between chapters ten and eleven of Forster's novel. "Yes, dying is a great inconvenience," she offered. "But it has its benefits — not being shuttled back and forth between Ducie Street and Waterloo Station and Howards End by Mr. Forster does afford one the opportunity to step back and observe, really observe, how one's family is being interpreted. And I must say that I heartily disapprove of this Miss Richardson's critical



approach. Really, it's not to be borne."

Ms. Richardson, a second-year student, claims to "really understand" Forster's novel, having interjected numerous enthusiastic comments in class pertaining to "how the house is, like, their past, and so it's, you know, who they are." She proudly spoke of having marked in her copy of the text several moments she called "ironical." Professor Green-Lewis declined to comment on Ms. Richardson in particular, though she did admit to some concern over the tentative paper topic "What If Mr. Wilcox Hadn't Burned His Wife's Will?" proposed by Ms. Richardson in a recent conference. Professor Green-Lewis also mentioned that this is not the first time she has encountered difficulties with overly disparaging characters in the modern novel. "Oh, they can be so full of themselves, how multilayered and inscrutable they are. The lot from *To the Lighthouse*, they're probably the worst, what with the convoluted and subtle prose going right to their heads, making them think they're deep when they're really just confusing. I haven't had a year where Mr. Ramsay hasn't driven someone to tears by telling them 'That lovely Ginny Woolf wrote that I'd got from A to Q, but you seem to be stuck fast on B, what?'"

"I know that I should be glad at least to be in a novel that is still widely studied," Mrs. Wilcox concluded, "unlike those poor souls in *Joseph Andrews* or *Omoo* or *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, but one does wonder whether not being read at all might not be preferable to being misread so grossly."

### **POINT....**

#### **Damn Mosquitoes!**

by Sean Brewster

You know, you get the Bread Loaf catalog in March, and there's always some picture of an Adirondack chair, and you think it's pretty sweet, spending an afternoon reading Hemingway or Joyce in one of those things, all outside and warm and comfortable.

Man, they never said *anything* about the mosquitoes.

First time I try to sit outside to read, it's like I'm wearing a sign saying "Bite Me" or something, cause I'm just gettin' devoured out there. So I grab my roommate Matt's bug juice, and I just go to town with the stuff, and I'm thinking I'm home free, except I go back out there, and they must have these Super Sized nuclear X-Files mosquitoes in Vermont, cause that stuff I put on? Didn't do *shit*, man.

Don't even get me started on the black flies.

So when you get your course catalog next summer, take a good look at the picture they've got on the cover. Ten bucks it's another Adirondack chair. And you'll think "Wow, pretty cool," but you should think about this: It's *empty*, man, 'cause whoever was in it just ran like hell to get away from the killer bugs. I'm going to New Mexico next year, dude. I hear they have scorpions there, but them I can handle.



### **COUNTERPOINT...**

#### **Bleed, Capitalist Pig**

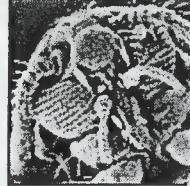
By ZzmmzzzzmnZzz683

Do what you will. Slather yourself in any of the patent-medicine elixirs claiming to repel us, perform frantic gyrations with your arms and books and hats, or destroy thousands of my comrades in arms. All will be to no avail. You cannot win. Yield to our supremacy.

I laugh at your pathetic attempts to frighten and discourage us with the glee you take in slaughtering the valiant footsoldiers establishing beachheads on the back of your neck, the fleshy areas of your calves, and the recesses of your corpuscle-filled ears. Our astonishing fertility rate means that our supply of glorious martyrs is constantly being replenished. Our short lifespan means that we feel no sentimental attachment to any of our 1,682,935 brethren should they perish in the noble quest to fatten ourselves on your blood. And though we do not mourn their passing as you weak humans do for your dead, do not think we are not beasts that want discourse of reason; rather, the sight of a flattened corpse, its blood commingling with yours where you crushed it, inflames us, rededicates us to the Great Cause of redistributing the precious blood hoarded so selfishly by the bourgeois human scum to the deserving, oppressed, undernourished mosquito proletariat.

Ah, but we do not like fire, you say. True enough, but we also know that your supply of firewood cannot last forever. When it is exhausted, you will have to search for more — and where will you look? In the woods, where we will be waiting for you. There is no escape. Accept the inevitable. Yield us up your arms, your thighs, your succulent exposed lower torsos, your balding pates! We laugh at Death. We sneer at Deet®.

I see you fleeing to the presumed security of an indoor location — to the Library or Barn, to the hateful air-conditioned Apple Cellar. But still we wait, for we know you must emerge at some point and return to your humid dormitory room where, despite your whirling fans and window-screen barriers, we will find a way in, circle your vulnerable sleeping figure, buzz gently in your ear, and then feast on your bloated corpulence. To you, the red welts with which you awake the next morning are irritants, but to us they are a sign that the Revolution is alive and well.



#### **INSIDE:**

**Tennis Players Irritated by Noise of Students Working in Library**

#### **INSIDE:**

**Student in John Elder's Class Sees Dimpled Spider, Fat and White, Shrieks, Kills It With Shoe**

#### **INSIDE:**

**DEA Agents Misinterpret Front Desk's "We'll Sell You Coke" Sign**

#### **INSIDE:**

**Previously Suppressed Desire Voiced, Met with Awkward Pause, Instantly Regretted**

# Crumb for Dummies

The Low-IQ-Friendly Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 19

Monday, July 25, 2005

????

**Jim returned from Alaska on Thursday – but who left for Alaska on this day in 1897?**

**What's Up**

**Madrigalists**  
5:00, Barn

**Jonathan Strong Reading**  
7:30, Barn

**Menu**

Parmesan crusted haddock or polenta chips with sun-dried tomato, pine nut, and cheese medley; carrot cake for dessert.

**Weather**

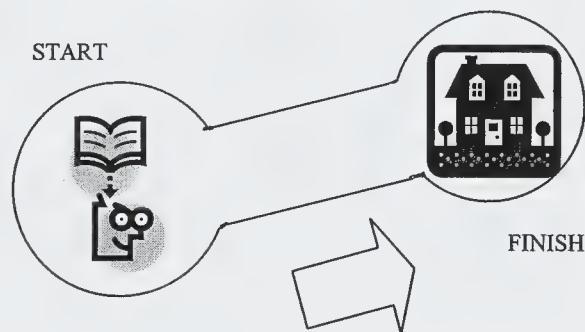
**Today:**  
AM showers,  
85/62.

**Tomorrow:**  
Isolated T-storms,  
88/68.

**Wednesday:**  
AM showers,  
79/57.

## Get Your Week Off to a Strong Start

Jonathan Strong, Bread Loaf's beloved Fiction Writing instructor and author of *Elsewhere*, *The Haunts of His Youth*, *An Untold Tale*, *A Circle Around Her*, *The Old World*, and several other novels, will be reading from his work tonight in the Barn at 7:30. Can you help the interested student find his way there?



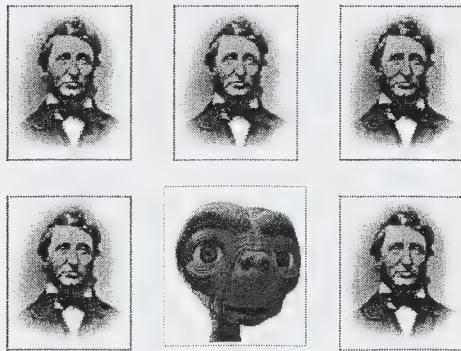
## Panel Puzzle

Everyone is invited to a panel discussion of *Romeo and Juliet* – both Shakespeare's text and the Acting Ensemble's production – on Wednesday at 7:30 in Barn 1. Unscramble the following names to figure out the names of the esteemed panel members.

**SSUANNE WOFFRUD  
HAETHER JAEMS  
ARHTUR LITTEL  
BRAIN MCELNEY  
ISOBLE ARMSTRNOG**

## Suppressed Stickler

Five of the students below are going to this Saturday's Suppressed Desires dance as Henry David Thoreau. One is going as E.T. Can you find the student dressed as E.T.?



**Extra Credit:** Visit local thrift stores, Ben Franklin fabric sections, Ebay, costume rental agencies, or whatever place of business your costume idea requires you to patronize in order to assemble components of original, fun, possibly literature-related outfit. *Deadline: Saturday, 9 p.m.*

## Poetry Poser

The deadline for the Bread Loaf Poetry Contest is this Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. Students may submit one or two poems, each no more than 40 lines long, to Karen Browne in the Office before that time. Please remember to put your name only on a separate piece of paper attached to the poems, not on the poems themselves. Students attending other campuses may e-mail the poems to Karen via BreadNet before 5 p.m. your campus time on Wednesday.

To hone your skills for the contest, figure out which rhyming word(s) best fills in the blanks in the following love ballad:

*My love for you is like a tree  
That grows o'er time, like you and \_\_\_\_\_.*

*My love for you is a fire so bright  
It burns with love all day and \_\_\_\_\_.*

*My love for you will never diminish  
Though you be Swedish, Dutch, or \_\_\_\_\_.*

*My love for you is like an anvil  
Just like \_\_\_\_\_.*

*My love for you is like \_\_\_\_\_  
Nick Sberna.*

## Race Riddle

Congratulations to Eleanor Bard, who won the women's Goshen Gallop 10K this weekend. *How many women finished in front of Eleanor?*

- a) 4
- b) 17
- c) 0
- d) 119

## Congratulations Conundrum

Whom should you congratulate for being one of only 60 recipients (out of 926 applicants) of an American Council of Learned Societies fellowship award for "Taking Liberties: Ovid in Renaissance Poetry and Political Thought"?

- A) Professor Heather James.
- B) Some other random academic you've never heard of who has no connection to Bread Loaf and therefore no reason to have his or her accomplishments mentioned in the *Crumb*.

## Fun with Frost

Watch this space for news of the annual Frost Reading (a.k.a. Frost Séance), which will be held at the Frost Cabin at 10 p.m. some night when the forecast is friendly – perhaps as early as Wednesday. Given that those who attend take turns reading their favorite Frost works, which book would be the best source for poems?

- A) *Maxim*, April, 2004 issue
- B) *The Collected Poems of Robert Frost*
- C) The Middlebury phone book

## Orr Obstacle

Word problem: 19 people have paid Ed Brown \$10 for their Charlie Orr T-shirts. Ed also has a few extras (1 small, 2 medium, 3 large, and 3 XL) available for purchase. Given these figures, *how much does one T-shirt cost?*

## Quiet Question

Please remember that porch gatherings should either break up or adjourn to the Barn at 11 p.m. By changing one letter at a time, can you make PORCH into QUIET in five steps? *Note: Intermediate stages need not be actual words.*

P O R C H

— — — — —  
— — — — —  
— — — — —  
— — — — —

Q U I E T

## Top Ten Twist

Directions: Fill in the missing numbers in the sequentially organized list below. All answers are positive integers.

- 10.
- 9.
- ??.
- 7.
- 6.
- 5.
- 4.
- ??.
- 2.
- 1.

Extra credit: Complete this list with your ideas for this week's list, the **Top Ten Signs that Bread Loaf's Production of Romeo and Juliet Has Taken Excessive Liberties with the Original Play**. Submissions are due to the *Crumb* by Friday at 10 a.m.

## Jokey Jerk Doesn't Know Jack

Because Thursday's trivia question ("Who wrote the single bestselling volume of poetry in America the last fifty years?") turned out to have been worded too vaguely, people submitted several conceivably correct answers, including Dr. Seuss and Shel Silverstein. The answer I had in mind was that versifying vocalist Jewel, but let's just forget all about that fiasco and move on to today's question – which, as befits the *Crumb for Dummies*, is about as much of a softball as you're going to get this summer. Send your answers to the *Crumb* by tomorrow morning to see your name in print (either congratulated or mocked, depending on whether you get the answer right or not) in Tuesday's issue.

# The Crumb

*The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English*

Volume 86, Number 20

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

????

*When John Steinbeck wrote for the Herald Tribune during WWII, his columns were syndicated in 47 of the 48 states. In which one did his columns not appear? (And for extra credit, why not?)*

**What's Up**

Soccer  
7:00, Field

Spoken Word Opera  
7:30, Barn A

**Menu**

Roast beef with Madeira wine jus and garlic-herb roasted potatoes or vegetable paella; cherry pie for dessert, as far as I can tell.

**Weather**

**Today:**  
Isolated T-storms,  
89/72.

**Tomorrow:**  
Few showers,  
78/55.

**Thursday:**  
Sunny, 80/55.

## Little Bit of Pre-Play Discussion

Before you rush out to see *Romeo and Juliet* next week, you'll want to attend tomorrow evening's panel discussion of the play (and our production of it) at 7 in Barn 1. Brian McEleny, Arthur Little, Heather James, and Susanne Wofford will each contribute brief remarks about the play, with time afterwards for an open discussion with the four panelists. Isobel Armstrong will chair the conversation (and, if necessary, break up any melees among the panelists, or between them and the audience, springing from divergent interpretations of the transgressive properties of festival, the political climate of 16<sup>th</sup>-century Verona, or the commodification of femininity).

## Poetry Winners Have Grand Time

Remember that all submissions to the 2005 Bread Loaf Poetry Contest must be delivered to Karen Browne in the Office by 5 p.m. tomorrow (or e-mailed to her via BreadNet by that time). You may submit one or two poems, each no longer than 40 lines; put your name on a piece of paper attached to the poems, but not on the poems themselves, to ensure anonymity during the judging process. A \$1000 prize awaits the winner or winners.

David Huddle and Paul Muldoon will once again act as readers and judges for the competition but, priding themselves on their objectivity, pledge to guard against any temptation to elevate above their intrinsic worth transparently unctuous verses praising the beauty of seersucker or the appeal of a lilting Irish accent.

## This Bunch Did OK

Team Pederson/Kaplan, Kurt Broderson, Robbie Harold, Daniel Ruff, Sorina Higgins, and Peggy O'Leary (on behalf of Ross Hall) all correctly identified Jack London as the writer who lit out for the Alaska Territory in 1897. It's no surprise that Peggy knew the answer — she's an Alaskan herself — but she'll have to return to the Lower 48 for the state that abSteined during World War II. Get your guesses to the *Crumb* by 11 tomorrow morning.

## Portfoli-O-No!

Tonight's scheduled E-Portfolios workshop with Caroline Eisner has been cancelled. No makeup date has yet been announced, but watch future *Crumbs* for any updates.

## "ALL Good" Things Come To Those Who Wait

You won't have to wait long, however. After bringing down the (Coffee)House with his performance, Bread Loaf's undisputed spoken-word poetry champion Mark Otuteye joins forces tonight with violinist Masha Wasilewsky for a Spoken Word Opera called "It's ALL Good" at 7:30pm in Barn A. A breathtaking mix of original poetry, drama, and violin, this opera of music and performance poetry promises to leave its audience rejuvenated, refreshed, and inspired. Everyone is invited.

## Go Gently Into That Good Night

Just a reminder, as paper deadlines loom and the general stress level is on the rise, that late-night porch gatherings are the source of much irritation among your fellow students (distracted from *The Portrait of a Lady*, trying to get to sleep), the staff (not relishing the unpleasant duty of telling people to hush up and scram), and the faculty (insanely jealous of the bygone pleasures of youth). After 11:00, please retire for the night or continue your conversations in the Barn.

## You Come Too To Two Dos

Maggie and Jen have consented to lead tours of the Frost Cabin this Friday afternoon from 3:30-5:30, after which we will have another all-campus cookout (albeit on the West Lawn, not at the Homer Noble Farm) starting at 6. Maggie and Jen will give a brief overview of Frost's time in Ripton, and then you'll be free to explore the cabin and ponder, as have generations of biographers and critics before you, the potential significance of the seemingly random meteorological data scribbled on the storeroom door and Frost's apparent preference for Earl Grey tea, very small playing cards, and "Brushless" brand shaving cream.

## Orrganizer Abhorr Disorrder

Ed also announces that of the 19 delinquents who, as of yesterday morning, had not paid him the \$10 they promised him for a Charlie Orr Race T-shirt, exactly zero have since slunk to the Front Desk to cough up the requisite dough. Should this alarming trend of inaction and (we can only presume) deliberate avoidance continue, Ed will post the ingrates' names in a public spot alongside any embarrassing biographical details, questionable hygienic habits, or salacious rumors he's unearthed during his summer's perambulations.

## **Find Whose Names Are Writ Ten Here**

After the first option for this week's Top Ten List, Top Ten Ways to Improve the Food This Summer, was summarily rejected as unlikely to produce more than one or two viable responses, we turn to the unofficial Longest Top Ten List Title Ever, **Top Ten Signs that Bread Loaf's Production of Romeo and Juliet Has Taken Excessive Liberties with the Original Play**. Here's hoping that the complicated category won't deter the usual suspects (Barn East, Llamas) and upstart contributors (Larch, 11:00 Club) from their devisings. Get your submissions to the *Crumb* by 10:00 on Friday morning, and look for the final list in that day's issue at lunch.

## **Director Seeks E-Mail, Actual Male**

Think life's all a stage? Seeking an outlet for your thespian skills? Elaine Karten is seeking a youthful male actor for her directing scene. Please email her on BreadNet if you're interested!

## **Mark Time with Film Screenings**

Mark Puckett will be showing two short films on Tuesday, August 2, and Wednesday, August 3, in Barn 1 at 8:00. The first is called "Unknown," a nine-minute film about a man losing his mind in which Mark acted with Stephen Stout (*Center Stage*). This film won the gold in a regional Connecticut Festival this year. The second (sixteen minutes) is called "The Development," a film that Mark wrote, directed and produced. It is about a female photographer who develops a head injury and begins to have difficulty distinguishing between reality and her photos. This short features Matt Del Negro (*Sopranos*, *West Wing*, *Chelsea Walls*) and Sarah Desage (*She Hate Me*), as well as the camera work of two-time Emmy winner Dwight Brugo Rodriguez and the jazz of Rob Garcia.

Mark is the Director of Programming for the Greenwich Film Festival ([greenwichfilmfestival.org](http://greenwichfilmfestival.org)) and encourages anyone to come. There will be a brief question-and-answer after the screenings and he will talk a little about independent filmmaking. He will show the same films on both nights, in case anyone can't make it the first time.

## **There Is No Van Run Thursday Afternoon**

Well, uh, since the headline here pretty much tells the whole story, there's not much more to say. Deal with it, I guess.

# The Crumb

Errata Edition

Volume 86, Number 21

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

????

What word  
for a kind of  
mistake owes  
its existence to  
playwright  
Richard  
Brinsley  
Sheridan?

What's Up

Poetry Contest  
Deadline 5:00

Yoga 5:00, Barn 2

Director's  
Reception  
5:00, Inn Porch

Romeo and Juliet  
Panel Discussion  
7:00, Barn 1

Ultimate  
7:00, Field

Menu

Fried chicken with  
buttermilk-  
scallion mashed  
potatoes or  
mushroom risotto  
cake with tomato-  
almond chutney  
and greens.  
Dessert's a  
surprise.

Weather

Today:  
Showers,  
78/55.

Tomorrow:  
Partly cloudy,  
79/55.

Friday:  
Partly cloudy,  
82/59.

## Discussion Discrepancies

Correction: The members of tonight's panel discussion of *Romeo and Juliet* (7:00, Barn 1) will be Heather James, Arthur Little, Brian McEleny, and Susanne Wofford, with Isobel Armstrong chairing the discussion. Contrary to what was reported in yesterday's *Crumb*, William Shakespeare will not appear as a panelist, due to previous commitments and an advanced state of decomposition. The *Crumb* regrets the error.

## Reception Deception

Correction: Yesterday's *Crumb* article on today's Director's Reception (Inn Porch, 5:00) contained a number of inaccuracies. The "very nice" 1967 Dom Perignon is no longer available. Alison Krauss will not play for the guests' enjoyment. Faculty "keg stands" will not be featured. The 100<sup>th</sup> person to enter the reception does not win a lifetime supply of Turtle Wax©. Tipping the bartenders is not expected, no matter how blatantly Kurt hints to the contrary. The *Crumb*'s official line is that it regrets these errors, although we're just saying that to get you off our backs.

## My Faultimate

Correction: The word "Ultimate" in Ultimate Frisbee (tonight, 7:00, Field) is simply the identifying moniker of the sport, not a guarantee that participating this evening will constitute some kind of extreme, greatest, highest, incomparable, maximum, paramount, pre-eminent, superlative, supreme, surpassing, topmost, towering, transcendent, unequalable, unmatchable, unsurpassable, or utmost experience. The organizers promise only that it will be "fun" and "invigorating." The *Crumb* regrets its hyperbolical tendencies.

## Flopping By Woods

Correction: While Jen and Maggie will indeed offer tours of the Frost Cabin Friday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30, do not expect to see any of the following objects, which yesterday's *Crumb* mistakenly implied could be found there:

- Unpublished manuscripts stuffed everywhere
- Row of skulls atop pikes (warning to trespassers)
- Keg-O-Rator
- *Playboy*, May, 1956 issue (Girls of the American Academy of Arts and Letters Extravaganza)

The *Crumb* does not know what came over it to make it say such things.

## Barbecue Mische

Correction: Friday's cookout dinner is open to everyone in the Bread Loaf community, off-campus students and their families included. Our own three-headed Cerberus, the imposing Headwaiters Rohstedt, Silverman, and Pederson, have been alerted not to guard the entrance to the picnic grounds with the ferocity of a normal, on-campus-only meal.

## I Stanza Corrected

Correction: The judges for this year's Poetry Contest (deadline today, 5 p.m.), David Huddle and Paul Muldoon, write that contrary to the advice dispensed in yesterday's "Sure-Fire Contest-Winning Poem Topics" column, they do not see great promise in poems concerning any of the following: Ol' Sharkey, Cookie Monster, Gallagher, or men from Nantucket. The *Crumb* regrets the misleading advice, but encourages writers constructing paeans to any such figures to redirect their creative energies to the Bread Loaf Bad Fiction Contest (see below).

## Prose Pratfalls

Since time immemorial, scores of dewy-eyed Bread Loafers have looked forward to this day with bated breath. With metaphors filling their minds like the water in a water balloon, jiggly and ready to gush out any minute, they call on the ancient memory of Joseph Battell and prepare themselves for the Annual Bread Loaf Bad Fiction Contest.

Send your submissions (no more than two pages, the badder the better) via campus mail to Tara Boland, Clare MacKenzie, or Marybeth Thompson by no later than 12:00 noon on Monday, August 1. Names should not appear on the submission itself but should be attached on a separate piece of paper. The winner will be announced at dinner on Thursday, August 4, and the winning submission will be read aloud at Gilmore that night.

## Good Pilgrim, You Do Wrong Your Hand

Correction: Tickets for *Romeo and Juliet* are free and will be available from the Friendly Folks at the Front Desk beginning after lunch today – not, as was previously reported in the *Crumb*, "obtainable from Jon Freeman for \$27.50 each plus processing and handling fees." The *Crumb* deeply regrets that someone brought this error to light.

We ask that students get only one ticket to begin, but they may see the play as often as they like as long as tickets last. If your plans change or papers loom, simply exchange your tickets for a more convenient night.

## False Sense of Seniority

The Senior Class will meet at 5:00 tomorrow in Tamarack to discuss plans for their graduation celebration, not (as was hinted in a recent *Crumb*) to take the Secret Senior Blood Oath to apply whatever influence they accrue over their various careers towards the betterment of their fellow '05ers, the preferential treatment of their children and friends, and the immediate disavowal of any classmate who, at some point in the future, discloses to a member of the media the existence of the by-then many-tentacled syndicate reaching into the upper levels of government, dominating the Hollywood studio system, and running the black markets in dozens of Third World countries. The *Crumb* regrets the error – but seriously, wouldn't that be cool?

### **BLTNeglect**

Correction: Andrea Lunsford will be speaking at tomorrow night's BLTN meeting (7-9, Barn 1), which is open to the entire campus. Yesterday's *Crumb* contained no mention whatsoever of this event. The *Crumb* regrets the omission, but not too much, because hey, no harm done, right?

### **Stretching the Truth**

Yoga will have its usual Wednesday session at 5 in Barn 2 – but they're sorely in need of someone to lead the class. Please consider stepping up if you're already planning to attend.

### **Blunder the Sea**

Correction: This Saturday's **Suppressed Desires** dance, hosted by the Waitstaff, will have a vaguely nautical theme. The theme will not, as yesterday's *Crumb* misleadingly claimed, be "Hooray for Delaware!" The *Crumb* regrets any inconvenience thus caused to partygoers well along in their plans to dress as Governor Ruth Ann Miller or John Dickinson, the "Penman of the American Revolution."

### **Knights Who Say "Nay"**

Correction: While this Friday's film will indeed be *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, as yesterday's *Crumb* claimed, the actual Holy Grail will not be made available to those in attendance, as a regrettable typographical error may have implied. The *Crumb* deeply regrets any disappointment felt by those expecting to receive eternal life.

### **Little Blue Lie**

Correction: There will not be a meeting of the post-Blue Parlor discussion group this Sunday – but if anyone would like to continue the conversations about issues of sexual orientation in teaching and in life, talk to Jonathan Strong and he'll find a time to meet.

### **Bad Lie**

Correction: Competing in the August 7<sup>th</sup> Bread Loaf Golf Scramble does not meet the requirements of the "original and perceptive interpretation of *The Sound and the Fury*" final-project option for Stephen Donadio's class, despite the centrality of golf in the opening section of that novel. That fact should not dissuade you, however, from signing up outside the Dining Hall to compete in the friendly tournament. The *Crumb* regrets leading you on in this way, although he most assuredly tried to convince Professor Donadio that he stood to benefit from having a whole lot fewer final projects to grade.

### **Unforced Error**

Correction: Although yesterday's *Crumb* declared Asher Muldoon the 2005 Wimbleloaf men's singles champion, the tournament is, in fact, just getting underway. Players should schedule their initial match soon if they have not done so already. The *Crumb* regrets getting Asher all excited about this.

### **More Missed Stakes**

Correction: The reason Jacques Lezra is not teaching a course this summer is **not** because it conflicted with his run to the final table at the World Series of Poker, and his son Gabe is **not** known around Vegas as "The Wisconsin Snake." They are, however, casual card players who want to put together a friendly game of poker, perhaps on Friday afternoon; interested players should identify themselves to either Jacques or Gabe, or to Susanne Wofford, by dropping them a note via campus mail or catching them at lunch or dinner. The *Crumb* regrets its blatant disregard for that irksome concept, "the truth."

### **Stein Bleech Not OK**

Margaret O'Leary, the Exiles on Main Street, and Daniel Ruff all knew that John Steinbeck's wartime newspaper column wasn't available in Oklahoma, which had not yet forgiven the author for his depiction of the state in *The Grapes of Wrath* (which, on an amusing side note, translated into Japanese as *The Angry Raisins*). A certain Director's Assistant and a certain Headwaiter, whose names do not appear here, also answered correctly. The *Crumb* does not regret this omission one whit, as those two are getting a mite uppity about always having the right answer.

### **Ten-uous Grasp of Facts**

Correction: This week's category is **Top Ten Signs that Bread Loaf's Production of Romeo and Juliet Has Taken Excessive Liberties with the Original Play**, not Top Ten Juicy Pieces of Gossip Regarding Jim Maddox. That list, mistakenly included in yesterday's *Crumb*, is part of the *Crumb* Bum's strategy as he enters salary negotiations and was not intended for the general public. The *Crumb* regrets the error and furthermore denies the possibility that any piece of information exists that would besmirch in any way the sterling reputation of the wise and benevolent Director.

# **Congratulations Santa Fe Seniors**

(who, by the time you read this, will already have received their diplomas)

**Good Luck...Have a Safe Trip Home...Keep In Touch...See You In  
CyberBarn...There's Always The M.Litt...Hail and Farewell**

# Crumb of Myself

*The Barbaric Yawp of the Bread Loaf School of English*

Volume 86, Number 22

Thursday, July 28, 2005

????

*When the Whitman's Sampler chocolate assortment debuted in 1912, what did it have that no other box of candy did?*

## What's Up

**Madrigalists**  
5:00, Barn

**Senior Meeting**  
5:00, Tamarack

**Soccer**  
7:00, Field

**Andrea Lunsford**  
**Presentation**  
7-9, Barn 1

**Gilmore** 9:00

## Menu

Roast beef with Madeira wine jus or mushroom strudel with sundried tomato pesto and greens; gingerbread for dessert (?).

## Weather

**Today:**  
Partly cloudy,  
78/53.

**Tomorrow:**  
Mostly sunny,  
81/56.

**Weekend:**  
Sun turning to storms Sunday.  
Around 80.

1

I celebrate my *Crumb*, and sing my *Crumb*,  
And what I assume you shall assume,  
For every bit of news reported to me as good belongs to  
you.

I Loaf and invite my soul,  
I lean and Loaf at my ease, I play Spider Solitaire when I  
should be writing the news,  
I rouse myself, I commit myself afresh.  
I, now thirty-five years old in perfect health begin,  
Hoping not to cease until the copies are made and  
distributed.

3

I have heard what the actors were acting, the act of the  
tragedy of Romeo and Juliet,  
I go to the Front Desk to get tickets, and advise you to  
accompany me.

There will never be another production like the one here,  
Nor any actors like the ones you will see here,  
And will never be any more perfection than on the stage  
here,

Nor any better price than the cost here, for it is free.

Urge and urge and urge,  
Always the attendant urge of the Audience.  
So only get tickets for one night for now.

6

A student said *What is there to do today?*  
How could I answer the student? I do not know how to  
choose any more than he.

I guess there must be **Madrigalists rehearsal at 5**, their  
mellow harmonies rising to the rafters of the Barn,  
Or I guess I will go to the **meeting of the seniors**,  
**Who at five in Tamarack congregate** and mingle,  
Planning their Commencement festivities at summer's  
end.

Or I guess I should hear **Andrea Lunsford speak**  
tonight,  
**At seven o'clock in Barn one**,  
**As she talks of Observations from the Stanford Study**  
**of Writing**,

**BLTN fellows and all Bread Loafers alike are welcome**,  
Gilmorean, Annexite, Larch-dweller, Innhabitant, she  
invites them the same, she receives them the same,  
And welcomes all for treats in Treman after.

O I perceive after all so many uttering tongues,  
And I perceive they do not come from the roofs of their  
mouths for nothing.

All goes onward and onward, nothing collapses,  
(Except the student exhausted after finishing his paper and  
handing it in, she will do well, I am confident.)  
And to go to any or all of these events is different than  
going to none, and luckier.

11

Twenty-eight young men stand by the fire,  
Twenty-eight young men and all so friendly,  
Twenty-eight pages written so far and now so thirsty.

She lives in the fine Inn by the rise of the road,  
She hides focused and scribbling aft the blinds of the  
Library.

Where are you off to, lady? for I see you,  
You **drive up the road to Gilmore**, you exit your car.

Chatting and laughing up the hill to Gilmore came the  
twenty-ninth student,  
The rest did not see her, so dark it was, but she saw them  
and headed for the keg.

Which of the young men does she like the best?  
Ah, the one who pours her a beer and gives up his  
Adirondack chair by the fire is beautiful to her, if a bit  
scruffy to others.

The beards of the young men glisten'd in the glow of the  
bonfire,  
Little sparks pass'd in front of their bodies.

An unseen professor will also pass from out of the shadows,  
The young people sit on their butts, they do not ask who it  
will be,  
They do not know who will read the story, nor what story it  
will be,  
They do not know whom they will shower with applause.

15

The pure contralto sings in the lofted Barn,  
The conductor gestures, the Madrigalists join behind her, the  
music soars upward and outward,  
The soccer players gather in the field at seven, their bare  
feet spring from the ground and direct the ball  
goalward, the freshly-mown grass clings to their shins,  
Faye waits in the theater, she seeks volunteer ushers for  
the play, she offers them the chance to reserve seats,  
(The Director does not get to reserve his seat, the *Crumb*  
Bum does not get to reserve his, but the humble usher  
chooses her vantage point;)

**Andrea Lunsford speaks in Barn 1 after dinner**, the  
BLTN Fellows and many other Loafers assemble to  
hear this esteemed visitor,

The ticket-agent distributes *Romeo* tickets at the Front Desk  
to all who ask, they cost nothing, the play is  
spectacular,

Jen and Maggie prepare the Frost Cabin, they welcome  
guests tomorrow afternoon for tours;

The Seniors meet in Tamarack at five, they plan their  
graduation, they discuss pomp and circumstance,  
The Gilmore men build the fire, they light the torches, they  
ice the beverages,

Some miscreants lug Barn furniture outside and leave it  
to warp and mildew in the rainstorm,  
(Miserable! I do not lug Barn furniture outside, and if I did, I  
would return it whence it came;)  
Others live off-campus and yet do not pay for meals

eaten here, they scurry past the watchful eye of the clicker at the door, their salads and cereals heavy with guilt,  
The Director's Assistant journeys to campus to fetch tomorrow's film, it is *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*,  
The mowers are mowing the lawns, the gardeners are gardening the flower-beds, the students address their studies,  
The poet labors over his poem for Muldoon's next class,  
The fiction-writer labors over her short story for Strong's next class,  
The bad-fiction writer churns out drivel for the Bad Fiction Contest, (Clare and Tara and Marybeth await your submissions, the deadline is Monday;)  
The students work and the professors work,  
The morning-people work in their time, the night-owls work in their time,  
The old student sleeps in his Adirondack chair and the young student sleeps in her Adirondack chair,  
And such as it is to be of these more or less we are,  
And of these one and all I weave the song of my *Crumb*.

## 19

This Friday cookout is the meal equally set, these black bean burgers the meat for natural hunger,  
It is for the off-campus just the same as for the on-campus, Jim serves pasta salad and watermelon to all,  
He will not have a single Loafer slighted or left away,  
The waitstaff-woman, reader, paper-writer, are hereby invited,  
It is for the wicked just the same as the righteous,  
The mosquito-bitten scholar is invited, the Sharkey-thief is invited;  
There shall be no difference between them and the rest.

## 24

Suppressed Desires, a kosmos, of Bread Loaf a tradition,  
Turbulent, sensual, eating, drinking, breeding (afterwards),  
Sponsored by the Waitstaff, it stands above all other dances, a costumed affair,  
Much less modest than immodest.

Through them the Barn surging and surging, The John's Pond Life Aquatic the theme, through them the decoration and prizes for best costumes.

Unscrew the locks from the doors of your desire!  
Unscrew the desires themselves from their confinements, and dress as them, or as whatever you please!

Your Suppressed Desire, it shall be you!  
Napoleon Dynamite, it shall be you!  
Verbose Old Pine, guileless Ellen, grim-faced Battell, it shall be you!  
Slime-clad John's Pond tadpole, irksome mosquito, it shall be you!  
Orange-faced Oompa-Loompa or behatted Wonka, it shall be you!  
Sharkey the dolphin, Heaney the poet, Attila the Hun, it shall be you!  
Spider-Man with an odd but I suppose potentially aerodynamic dorsal fin, it shall be you!  
In the dance forbidden voices, voices of sexes and lusts, voices veil'd and the dance removes the veil,  
Voices indecent by it permitted and transfigur'd.

We do not press our fingers across our mouths,  
We believe in the flesh and the appetites,  
Which is why Kurt and Maggie and Jen pour beer and refill lemonade and Goldfish©, tastiest of snack-foods.

## 26

Now I will do nothing but listen,  
To accrue what I hear into this *Crumb*, to let others contribute toward it.  
I hear Beth Stanitski whisper "malapropism" to me before lunch,  
(She watches for my reaction, her trivia answer is right, and beautiful

for being right,) And Micki Kaplan speaks for Andy Pederson, they join together to answer correctly, Though Micki is already engaged to another this is no less blessed a union, and not cause for uproar or rebuke, And I hear Brad Whitehurst's voice in the note he leaves in my box and Robbie Harold's in her e-mail, and Brian Kosnik in his, Mary Burnham and Judy Ellsesser and Kimberly Benson and Alison LeMoine, I hear Chris Hutchison as well, he knows Mrs. Malaprop, and he chides me for forgetting him, He has been right before, and not mentioned in the *Crumb*, but he laughs as he reminds me, and I bear him no ill will for his correcting me, I hear the chorus of answers, it is a grand opera, Ah these indeed are right answers – these suit me.

## 35

Would you hear of a night-time moose-sighting?  
Would you learn who saw it, and where, by the light of the moon and stars?  
List to the yarn, as Tara Boland and Dayna Krachtas and Marybeth Thompson the waiter told it to me.

Returning from an evening out last night, (said they,) Driving cautiously along One-Twenty-Five, near the Pleiad trail, a wolf having just darted in front of our car, (Or a coyote, it was dark, the creature was quick, they cannot be sure.) We spied some movement along the wood-border, the moose emerged, It cross'd the road, it paus'd before us, it ambl'd into the brush,

A bull moose, said Marybeth, indicating antlers by reaching from her temples with outstretched fingers, A cow, said Dayna, who remembered no such appendages, I don't know, said Tara, not caring amid the bliss of her first moose sight.

Do they contradict themselves?  
Very well then they contradict themselves.  
(They are three, they contain multitudes.)

## 47

You are the teacher of athletes,  
Though you do not run the Charlie Orr race, you volunteer to help with the starting,  
Or with the timing, or the directing of runners traversing the racecourse,  
Or the recording of finishers in their proper order.  
(All will finish, sprinter, jogger, walker, children, dogs, all are triumphant and I love them all.) Approaching the Front Desk with your offers to help, They welcome you, and thank you, and send you hence in good cheer at aiding the cause.

## 52

The coffee-server swoops by and accuses me, he complains of my lunch-gab and my loitering.  
I depart to class, I shake my balding pate at the fugitive sun, If you want me again look for me under your Conferences folder on BreadNet, the CyberCrumb is there, Failing to fetch me at first keep encouraged, Missing me one place search another, I stop somewhere waiting for your Top Ten Signs that Bread Loaf's Production of *Romeo and Juliet* is Taking Excessive Liberties with the Original, which are due tomorrow.

# The Crumb

*The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English*

Volume 86, Number 23

Friday, July 29, 2005

?????

**Who won a National Book Award at 50 and turns 100 today?**

## What's Up

### Friday:

Yoga 2:00, Barn 2

Frost Cabin Tours  
3:30-5:30

All-School Cookout 6:00

*Monty Python and the Holy Grail*  
9:00, Barn

### Saturday:

Suppressed Desires 9-1, Barn

### Sunday:

Madrigalists 6:45

Blue Parlor 7:30

## Menu

Hamburgers, hot dogs, black bean burgers, BBQ tuna, corn on the cob, new-potato salad, various cookout desserts.

## Weather

**Today:**  
Partly cloudy,  
82/57.

**Weekend:**  
Sun and clouds both days. Highs around 80.

## The Forbidden Dance

Just in case you're only now emerging from Davison for the first time in several weeks, blinking in the bright sunlight and wondering whether you missed the Seamus Heaney reading, the big event this weekend is the Suppressed Desires dance. Many of you have had your costumes planned for months; some of you, no doubt, will scurry around the thrift stores (Bejewelled, Round Robin, Neat Repeats) in Middlebury or scour the shelves of Ben Franklin or TJ Maxx in last-minute attempts to resemble the literary figure, pop-culture celebrity, faculty member, or abstract concept that is your most primeval or buried urge. The Waitstaff will welcome you to the Barn any time after 9, and the music continues until 1, when the annoyances of paper deadlines and piles of reading will reassert themselves, to the dismay of all. See you there.

## Stop By Woods on a Sunny Afternoon

Maggie and Jen will throw the Frost Cabin open to visitors this afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30; this is probably your only chance this summer to tour the poet's summer lodgings, little changed since the late 1950's. To reach the cabin, drive up the dirt road next to the Robert Frost Wayside on 125, park at the white farmhouse, and walk up the grassy trail until the cabin heaves into view on your left.

The books, muffin pans, and grooming supplies within are certified Frostiana, but any miniature soaps and room-service menus you espouse are signs that the Muldoons have defied Jim's orders to cease and desist from operating the historic site as a B&B and pocketing the \$139 a night they extract from poetry buffs looking to brag about having slept in the Frost Bed.

## Jim's Cooking Means Long Bar-B-Queue

Tonight's dinner is the last all-school cookout of the summer; off-campus students and their families are most definitely invited. Jim and his crew will dish out traditional picnic fare with some of his trademark elegant twists (see the menu to the left) on the East Lawn from 6 until 6:45 or so.

## O Horrible! O Horrible! Most Horrible!

The Bread Loaf Bad Fiction contest serves two purposes: it amuses the community next Thursday when judges Tara Boland, Clare Mackenzie, and Marybeth Thompson will read the best worst selection at Gilmore, and it also provides a potential therapeutic outlet for students who, once having purged their minds of the tortured similes, hackneyed phrasing, and implausible logic any Bad Fiction contest cherishes, can turn to their final papers knowing that only scintillating prose and deft arguments remain in their heads. Send your labored, turgid, or otherwise flawed selection (no more than 2 pages, please) to any of the three judges; be sure to put your name only on an attached piece of paper so the judges read impartially and so that you can disavow authorship later on, should you so desire. No fair photocopying pages from *Ellen*, either.

## Film's Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts

If I tell you that tonight's film contains coconuts, African swallows, large wooden badgers, killer rabbits, weighty ducks, a Bridge of Death, Holy Hand Grenades, and debates over the legitimacy of governments deriving their powers from waterlogged women dispensing weaponry, it narrows the possibilities to two: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* and *Sense and Sensibility*. Only the hint that tonight's film also stars God would allow you to eliminate *Sense and Sensibility* and realize that it is indeed *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* that will be shown in the Barn at 9, with the usual free salty movie snacks available in abundance.

## Ushers Get Caught Up

Faye Christensen is still looking for a few good men and women to serve as volunteer ushers for *Romeo and Juliet*. Your remuneration for helping out is the privilege of reserving a prime seat for yourself, something no one else is able to do. For your assistance in handing out programs and shepherding the audience seatward, you'll be able to sit close enough to feel like you're "part of the action," although the Acting Ensemble cordially asks you not to become so much "part of the action" that you intervene in any of the brawls or blab to Romeo that *hey, she's not really dead*.

## Sunday's Blue Parlor (Insert Pun Here)

The *Crumb* Bum is so used to wrestling strained headline puns out of news events that he confesses himself flummoxed by the incredibly felicitous coincidence of having Blue Parlor presenters this week named Reeder (Allan) and Speek (John), who will be joined by Messrs. Whitehurst (Brad) and Klemer (Ben). They'll be sharing their own work starting at 7:30 on Sunday, and as usual, it's likely to be impressive and highly enjoyable.

## Jonny's One Note to Madrigalists

A reminder that we'll rehearse "Pierre" and "Johnny One Note" and the rest of our summer repertoire on Sunday from 6:45 to 8:30 or so.

## Students Who Miss Elder Hostile

Professor John Elder, author of *Reading the Mountains of Home*, will bring this summer's series of faculty readings to a close next Monday at 7:30 in the Barn. You'll regret it if you miss this event, Elder's first Barn reading in several years, so mark your calendars and clear your schedules.

## We're Not Yet Acquainted with the Night

Meteorological prognostication problems make it impossible for the *Crumb* to declare when, precisely, this summer's Frost Reading and Seance will be, but there's a chance that Sunday night will prove friendly for gathering outside the Frost Cabin to read our favorite Frost poems. Listen for a Dining Hall announcement this weekend for further details.

## **Seniors Compete to Become “Sister Karaoke,” “King Lear-ics”**

The Senior Class is heading to Angela’s Pub on Tuesday for karaoke; anyone needing a ride down should gather on the Inn porch at 9:00 that night.

## **Question Gave ‘Em Something to Chew On**

Yesterday’s question – what confectionery-related innovation did the 1912 Whitman’s Sampler introduce? – generated a wide range of guesses, but only the indomitable Team Pederson/Kaplan, the only-physically-impaired Maggie Favretti, and the last-minute entrant Sorina Higgins knew that the right answer was the convenient little map that helps picky people like the *Crumb Bum* navigate their way through the box with confidence, unerringly targeting the toothsome vanilla creams and caramels and steering clear of the loathsome nut-centered pieces that often ambush one’s palate in other, inferior collections.

## **Dally-Llamas Send Last-Minute Words of Wisdom, Avoid BOBE Prize**

It appears that the Boys of Barn East have finally found a way to rid themselves of their peskiest challengers, the Fighting Llamas: Wait for the extremely early conclusion of the Santa Fe session and cruise to victory over the presumably disbanded squadron of belligerent camelids. But wait! – what should arrive in the *Crumb Bum*’s in-box at 10:20 a.m. (and torpedo the import of the previous sentence) but a missive from those still-Fighting Llamas, who waited until the last minute to submit and so prevent, for this week at least, the Boys of Barn East from locking up the title! And thus the battle rages on...

### **Top Ten (Or So) Signs that Bread Loaf’s Production of *Romeo and Juliet* Has Taken Excessive Liberties with the Original Text**

24. Muppets take Verona! (BOBE)
23. Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn crash the wedding. (BOBE, SFFL)
22. Juliet, in love, asks the Nurse “What is carnal embrace?” (SFFL)
21. Nurse is carrying Romeo’s love child. (BOBE)
20. Romeo courts Juliet with a gratuitous display of bling. (KT)
19. The Morgan Horse Farm recently received an order for “Two Horses, Both Alike in Dignity.” (SFFL)
18. Faint strains of “When You’re a Jet, You’re a Jet All the Way” are heard coming from the Little Theater. (SFFL)
17. There is no longer poison in the vial, it is now Ecstasy, and for some reason there is foam everywhere. (BOBE)

16. Mel Gibson-influenced death scene of Romeo now two and a half hours long. (KT)
15. CSI Verona-- by way of a convoluted temporal paradigm, detectives unravel the mystery of two teens found dead in a crypt (SFFL)
14. Sexes of the main characters are reversed. (EMS)
13. Due to mature content, the love scene between Romeo and Juliet will be replaced with a meaningful BreadNet exchange. (CA)
12. Due to an unfortunate misunderstanding, the director casts cross-eyed actors as the “star-crossed lovers.” (CA)
11. Dialogue re-written by high school student who has not done the assigned reading: “But soft, yonder window is broken, the sun is in the east, and Juliet is so hot.” (SFFL)
10. Juliet’s cell phone goes off during the balcony scene. (EMS)
9. Play totally syncs up with Pink Floyd’s “Dark Side of the Moon.” (KT)
8. Whole play revealed to be the delusions of sanitarium-bound, multiple personality-stricken Romeo. (KT)
7. Hamlet shows up at the Capulet’s Ball – dead, and with his head stuck in a TV. (SH)
6. “Wherefore art thou, Romeo?” replaced with “Dude, where’s my Romeo?” (KT)
5. The Friar calls Romeo on a cell phone to tell him of Juliet’s feigned death, but can’t get a signal. (CA)
4. Romeo on Ice. (BOBE)
3. Juliet, Romeo and Paris rise from the dead to do the Thriller dance. (BOBE)
2. Lovers tragically torn asunder when their luxury liner strikes an iceberg and sinks. (SFFL)
1. Fred Sullivan as Juliet. (BOBE)

Current standings: Boys of Barn East (BOBE) 33; Santa Fe Fighting Llamas (SFFL) 28; Cherry-Atrics (CA) 11; Director’s Assistants (DA) 9; Sarah Chapple (SC) 8; Sorina Higgins (SH) 7; 11 O’Clock Club (11) 7; Hennelly Party of 6 (HP6) 6; Kilgore Trout (KT) 5; Ladies of Larch (LOL) 4; Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 4; Men of Annex (MOA) 2; Off-Campus with Offspring (OCWO) 2; Oxford Seniors (OX) 2; Virginia (V) 2; Daniel Ruff (DR) 1; Not-So-Mannerly Manor (NMM) 1.

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 24

Monday, August 1, 2005

????

Which author was born on this day in New York City and died there at the age of 72?

What's Up

Madrigalists  
5:00, Barn

John Elder  
Reading  
7:30, Barn

Reception  
Treman,  
Afterwards

Menu

Grilled chicken  
Tuscan  
panzanella or  
barley risotto  
cakes with  
vegetables and a  
spicy apricot  
glaze; dessert is  
a game-time  
decision.

Weather

Today:  
Scattered T-  
storms, 80/63.

Tomorrow:  
Partly cloudy,  
86/64.

Wednesday:  
Isolated T-  
storms,  
86/62.

## All Astir for Elder's Reading Tonight

Beloved Bread Loaf professor John Elder, also renowned as an expert syruper and as the author of *Reading the Mountains of Home*, will give this summer's fifth and final faculty reading tonight in the Barn at 7:30. A short reception will follow in Treman, although John may have to hasten back to the Theatre and to his apothecarial duties of mixing drams of mortal drugs for the Mantuan black market.

## Stowing Down & Clearing Up

Now, don't get thrown into a tizzy by the sight of the Departure Slip tucked in the lower right-hand corner; there's still plenty of time for you to revise that 15-page essay before handing it in, and no one's making you leave Bread Loaf until you absolutely want to. All students are welcome to stay on campus through Commencement (Saturday, August 13), but please fill out this slip and return it to the Front Desk so we know which empty rooms can be cleaned and made available to graduating seniors' guests.

## Forms Seek Sentiments, Surmises

You may already have found several forms in your mailbox – an evaluation form for your opinions of Bread Loaf 2005 and a re-enrollment form should you desire to be part of Bread Loaf 2006. Elaine cannot stress enough the importance of filling out and returning these forms; do yourself a favor and return them to the office promptly. Otherwise, the next time you visit the Office, you may be haunted by the suspicion that although Elaine *seems* to be smiling at you, she is actually administering the dreaded Glare of Death (courted by none, survived by few).

## Seniors: Front Desk Needs the Doubloons

The Front Desk reports that the senior class has been "pretty good" about paying for Commencement Banquet guests, but a few laggards remain. If you're one of them and don't wish to be harassed further, see Victoria to pay up and restore yourself to her good graces.

## The Symphony

The Madrigalists will finalize their preparations for their series of pre-play performances at today's 5:00 rehearsal in the Barn; fortunately, this final dress rehearsal involves neither costume changes nor lighting cues. See you there.

## Hark! The Huddled Angels Sing

David Huddle's Poetry Writing class will read from their summer's Collected Works at 7:30 tomorrow in Barn 2. Everyone is invited, and friends/family/fans of Charles Byrne, Aaron Clayton, Kevin Ellis, Kimberly Field-Marvin, Sorina Higgins, Ben Landry, Jennifer McDaniel, Tim O'Leary, Tamar Paull, Lisa Porricelli, Julia Tatsch, Brad Whitehurst, or David himself won't want to miss it.

## Seat-ology

Plenty of tickets are still available at the Front Desk for each of the five performances of *Romeo and Juliet*, but they'll almost certainly disappear quickly, so snap 'em up while you still can. And since seeing a Bread Loaf play just once isn't enough for some, feel free to grab tickets for a second or even third trip as well.

If you'd be willing to serve as an usher for one night of the run, talk to Faye Christensen in the Theatre office. The duties are minimal (handing out programs, locating empty chairs), and you get the special privilege of staking out your own seat in advance in exchange for your assistance.

## Filmmaker Makes His Mark

Mark Puckett will be showing two short films on Tuesday, August 2, and Wednesday, August 3, in Barn 1 at 8:00. The first is called "Unknown," a nine-minute film about a man losing his mind in which Mark acted with Stephen Stout (*Center Stage*). This film won the gold in a regional Connecticut Festival this year. The second (sixteen minutes) is called "The Development," a film that Mark wrote, directed and produced. It is about a female photographer who develops a head injury and begins to have difficulty distinguishing between reality and her photos. This short features Matt Del Negro (*The Sopranos*, *The West Wing*, *Chelsea Walls*) and Sarah Desage (*She Hate Me*), as well as the camera work of two-time Emmy winner Dwight Brugo Rodriguez and the jazz of Rob Garcia.

Mark is the Director of Programming for the Greenwich Film Festival ([greenwichfilmfestival.org](http://greenwichfilmfestival.org)) and encourages anyone to come. There will be a brief question-and-answer after the screenings and he will talk a little about independent filmmaking. He will show the same films on both nights, in case anyone can't make it the first time.

## The Hat, The Lamp, The Nut

Congratulations to the winners of the Suppressed Desires costume contest: Will Cleveland, 3<sup>rd</sup> for his cowboy-hatted "Beth Stanitski"; Melissa Roja, 2<sup>nd</sup> for her lampshade-hatted "One-Night Stand"; Jim Sherwin, 1<sup>st</sup> for a truly frightening "Mary Kate Olsen"; and Barn East, Special Judges' Watermelon Award for "Cast of Peanuts." Thanks also to the Waitstaff, whose undersea décor made the Barn barnacle-friendly, and to the Director's Assistants for dispensing liquid refreshment. Now that the dance is over, please stow your desires safely back in your subconscious until next July as a basic courtesy during this stressful week.

## DEPARTURE SLIP

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your room: \_\_\_\_\_

Your departure date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

## **First Night-Watch**

We're keeping an eye on the weather forecast for a night this week suitable for gathering at the Homer Noble Farm for the annual Frost Reading and Séance. When the skies seem clear and a dinner announcement confirms that the reading is on, grab a flashlight and a favorite Frost poem and head on up to the Homer Noble Farm around 10 (specific time TBA) to celebrate the work of Bread Loaf's patron saint.

## **Golf Gala Looming**

Reasons to sign up for Sunday's Bread Loaf Golf Scramble abound. First and foremost, there's the enjoyment of spending a sunny Sunday out on the links with friends and classmates. Second, there's the added incentive that your bad shots don't count — your team only hits from wherever the best previous shot landed. Third, there's the fierce but friendly competition for whatever valuable prizes have been purchased with your \$10 entry fee. And fourth (but not to be undervalued), there's the cathartic release that comes from imagining the helpless little spheroid sitting on the tee to be whatever professor, critic, or author is currently making your life miserable, then whaling the bejeezus out of it/him/her. Sign up outside the Dining Hall or talk to Jon Freeman if you want to play.

## **The Line for T-Shirts Starts Tomorrow**

The Bookstore has just received the shipment of 2005 Bread Loaf T-shirts, so if you ordered one, it'll be waiting for you there tomorrow. The Bookstore will be closed this Friday as the staff prepares for next week's 20%-off-most-everything sale. You may want to drop by to purchase any essentials by Thursday, because the shelves clear quickly during the sale, and out-of-stock items will not be reordered.

## **The Counter Pain**

The waiters and kitchen staff who keep track of Dining Hall inventory report that the disappearance of pitchers, mugs, salad bowls, and other supplies continues unabated. Please return any "borrowed" items promptly, lest we have to resort to Chinet® and Dixie® products for the Commencement Banquet.

## **The Chase**

Kurt Broderson, one correct answer behind Team Pederson/Kaplan in the summer's trivia marathon, keeps pace with the leaders by knowing that Stanley Kunitz turned 100 on Friday. Teresa Harings, the Exiles on Main Street, and Sorina Higgins also chimed in with birthday wishes. Because today's author isn't with us any more, just send a guess as to his identity in lieu of a gift or a chorus of "Happy Birthday."

## **Monstrous Pictures of Wails**

The Boys of Barn East and the Santa Fe Fighting Llamas are duking it out for bragging rights, but just about anyone should be able to come up with some ideas for the **Top Ten Signs Your Roommate is Cracking Under Paper Stress** — that is, if you can find the time amid all of your academic and extracurricular commitments this week. Send your submissions to Jon Freeman by Friday morning to be included in the final list.

# The Crumbudgeon

*The Daily Bulletin for Those No-Good Wiseacre Whipper-Snappers at Bread Loaf*

Volume 86, Number 25

Tuesday, August 2, 2005

????

*Which author, born on this day, was a Holy Roller preacher, a dishwasher, a waiter, and an inmate in a French prison before publishing the novel that catapulted him to fame?*

## What's Up

Soccer 7, Field

**David Huddle's Poetry Writing Class Reading**  
7:30, Barn 2

**Two Short Films by Mark Puckett**  
8:00, Barn 1

## Menu

Baked salmon  
Brittany with  
toasted almond-saffron pilaf or  
artichoke, white  
bean, and  
vegetable  
cassoulet gratin.  
Dessert – wait &  
see.

## Weather

**Today:**  
Isolated T-storms,  
86/63.

**Tomorrow:**  
Sunny, 86/60.

**Thursday:**  
Mostly sunny,  
88/67.

## A Word About the *Crumbudgeon*

Yeah, you've got a paper due Thursday, another one Monday, a class presentation next week, and don't even get you started on the work that awaits you when you start school two days after you return home. Oh, *boo-hoo*. I've got a paper due *every freakin' day*, my friend, so I don't want to hear you bewailing your awful fate when you were probably carousing out on the Larch porch until some godforsaken hour last night. And now you probably want the news to get you all *excited* about what's happening today, and I'm just not in the mood to act like there are all these *fun* things you should be doing. Look, we both know you'd be better off spending all day in the Apple Cellar, because your professor is *not* about to buy that ridiculous claim on page 2 that's the key to your whole argument. Sit down, shut up, eat your lunch, and listen good, because I'm not going to say any of this twice.

## Poems Better Than That Drivel of Yours

Oh, sure. Head to the reading David Huddle's Poetry Writing students are giving tonight in Barn 2 at 7:30. You'll enjoy hearing Charles Byrne, Aaron Clayton, Kevin Ellis, Kimberly Field-Marvin, Sorina Higgins, Ben Landry, Jennifer McDaniel, Tim O'Leary, Tamar Paull, Lisa Porricelli, Julia Tatsch, and Brad Whitehurst read from the work they've produced this summer, but don't come crying to me when the reading's over and you only then realize that you'll never write anything quite as good as their poems. For your paper, you'll just have to cobble together something resembling a coherent argument, design a pretty cover page (hey, it worked in fourth grade), and hope your professor takes pity on you. After Bread Loaf ends, there'll be plenty of time to contemplate career options besides the academic world for which you're obviously so ill-suited. The world needs ditchdiggers, too.

## Pipe Down, Zip It, Clam Up, Hush

You know, I was getting upset at you for typing noisily on the first floor of the Library, but I must have forgot that someone died and made you King of Bread Loaf. I mean, no one *else* would dare disturb everyone else's concentration by clacking away on the keys, but since it's *you*, well, then, e-mail away. Your Majesty.

And those signs that Faye will put up in the Inn and Library reminding people that when the candles are lit outside the Theatre, the play is underway and passersby should traverse quietly? Well, surely they don't apply to *you*! Why not continue your conversation as loudly as you like? I'm sure the actors won't mind pausing the play until there's no risk that their lines might disturb your *valuable* conversation about – what was it? – your favorite flavor of gum? Oh, *pardon me*.

## Those Veronese Teens Are Up to No Good

Back when I was a kid, if you went and fell in love with your family's greatest rival, disobeyed your parents, went off and got married, and got yourself killed as a result – well, let me tell you something, mister, your father would have taken you out behind the woodshed and set you straight. But you'll go see *Romeo and Juliet* starting tomorrow, and you'll *applaud* their actions, which only encourages kids to go out and do the same. Country's going to hell in a handbasket because of plays like this, I say.

And I told you over and over that *Romeo and Juliet* would sell out quickly, to get your tickets early, but did you listen? Of course not. And did the five performances sell out? Of course they did. If you don't have seats yet, you'll just have to see if anyone returns unwanted tickets to the Front Desk or go standby at the Theater and hope to claim an empty seat right before curtain.

If you *do* have tickets, wipe that smug look off of your face. You're not out of the woods yet. You'd better show up at 7:30 to hear the Madrigalists perform, or by 7:50 at the absolute latest, because there will be NO LATE SEATING. Folks who are late will have to wait until intermission to be seated, and don't you dare show up late, then sit next to me and ask "Who's *that*?" and "Is he one of the good guys?"

## You Can't Spare 25 Minutes for Mark?

Mark Puckett will be showing two short films tonight and tomorrow night at 8:00 in Barn 1. The first is called "Unknown," a nine-minute film about a man losing his mind in which Mark acted with Stephen Stout (*Center Stage*). This film won the gold in a regional Connecticut Festival this year. The second (sixteen minutes) is called "The Development," a film that Mark wrote, directed and produced. It is about a female photographer who develops a head injury and begins to have difficulty distinguishing between reality and her photos. This short features Matt Del Negro (*The Sopranos*, *The West Wing*, *Chelsea Walls*) and Sarah Desage (*She Hate Me*), as well as the camera work of two-time Emmy winner Dwight Brugo Rodriguez and the jazz of Rob Garcia.

Mark is the Director of Programming for the Greenwich Film Festival ([greenwichfilmfestival.org](http://greenwichfilmfestival.org)) and encourages anyone to come. There will be a brief question-and-answer after the screenings and he will talk a little about independent filmmaking. He will show the same films on both nights, in case anyone can't make it the first time.

## Can't You Follow Directions?

You got your evaluation and reenrollment forms in your mailboxes. Fill 'em in. Give 'em to Elaine. If you can't handle those simple instructions, then frankly, I don't care what you thought of this summer or whether you want to come back next year. So there.

**Departure  
Slip**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your room: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your departure date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Tornado, Schmornado

You know, I'm not usually one to gripe about such things, but when Jim stands up in the middle of dinner and says there's a tornado – a *tornado*, of all things, in Vermont – moving from Granville to Hancock and then right towards Bread Loaf, well, then, I expect a *tornado*, not just a bunch of funky-looking clouds and another cool sunset! I want *The Wizard of Oz*; I want *Twister*; I want...well, maybe I don't want a real tornado, but you try writing about a hopelessly good piece of news ("No Tornado Strikes Bread Loaf") in a style appropriate for the *Crumbudgeon*.

## I'll Just Sit in the Dark After You're Gone

You know that you're welcome to stay at Bread Loaf until Sunday morning, August 14, as long as you leave before noon that day – what? You have to leave before then? (*sniffle*) "Things to do," you say? Oh, that's all right. No, I'll be fine. No, just fill out a Departure Slip and leave it at the Front Desk. I'm staying until Sunday, but if it's so important to you to leave, I don't want to be difficult. I'll (*sniffle*) be fine, I said. I'll just try not to think of how long it's going to be before I see you again (*low moan*), and how you could have stayed for the Graduation Banquet, even if you're not a senior, if you just told Victoria Brown. But I understand. No, go. Go. (*sniffle*)

## So That's What You Youngsters Are Wearing?

Well, the Bread Loaf T-shirts have arrived and are ready for you to pick up at the Bookstore. If you've already gotten yours, then you've just wasted a few precious seconds reading a superfluous reminder; if you haven't picked yours up yet, you just have to suffer, because the Bookstore's closed until tomorrow. Deal with it.

## Reading Tonight at Grumpy Old Man's Place?

Oh, sure, the weather looks okay right now, and maybe – just maybe – the Frost Reading can take place tonight at 10 at the Homer Noble Farm. Listen for an announcement at dinner, and then – oh, goody – you get to tromp up through the mosquito-infested woods, right up the trail where Paul Muldoon saw a bear the other day, and listen to someone butcher "Birches" by pausing at the end of every line instead of at the punctuation. Hey, if that's your idea of fun, then bring a blanket, a flashlight, and a copy of your favorite Frost poem. I'll stay in my warm, well-lit room, thank you very much.

## Why Do You Need a Heating Pad AND a Cold Compress? Make Up Your Mind Already.

It seems that whichever person or persons borrowed the green heating pad and the cold compresses from the nurses' office in Cornwall still hasn't returned them. Typical. Sandy Brutkoski writes that "my other methods of retrieving them have failed," which I suppose means that she's already asked you nicely and you responded with a bald-faced lie. Maybe this guilt trip will spur you to return the health supplies so that others – oh, right, *other people* live up here too – can use them, but doesn't feeling guilty first require you to have a soul?

## Fine, I'm Sorry. I Said I'm Sorry, All Right?

I forgot that Ben Klemer and Brad Whitehurst also answered Friday's trivia question correctly, so their names didn't appear as they should have in yesterday's *Crumb*. So sue me.

## Infant Apparently Not Squalling Little Tyrant

If you know of anyone willing to babysit a 17-month old girl during the Wednesday performance of *R&J*, talk to Maggie Favretti. Maggie feels compelled to add that the baby's parents "will pay," like doing it for free would even occur to the mercenary spirits up here, and that the baby is "cute," which is probably true, but let's face it – if your baby looked like Yoda, would you go around admitting it?

## You Have Got to Be Shipping Me

What's come over Ed Brown to make him offer to assist with shipping packages home via UPS is beyond me, but if he wants to help, hey, it's a free country. The least you can do in return for the unexpected generosity is find your own boxes and tape, because the Front Desk sure isn't going to have any. What do they look like, Office Depot? Bring your boxes to the Front Desk from 9-12 starting Monday; if you're leaving before then, let Ed know and he'll work something out.

## Allan Minds Manners, Discusses Kids' Writing

See, *someone* paid attention to his parents when they told him how to ask nicely for something, so when Allan Reeder wrote me to say "Could you include a short item announcing a brief gathering I plan to hold in the Blue Parlor on Thursday at 7 p.m. for anyone interested in learning about the Writing Studio at Walnut Hill, where I teach – and where students are in the process of developing a national literary magazine for young writers? I have copies of our current magazine for attendees, featuring the work of winners of the first Studio contest for young writers of verse and fiction (grades 8-11) from schools all over the world. Walnut Hill is an arts-intensive independent school in Natick Massachusetts ([www.walnuthillarts.org](http://www.walnuthillarts.org)). Any teachers of promising young fiction-writers or poets may be interested in encouraging students to enter this year's contest. Last year's prize was \$500 and admittance to Walnut Hill's Summer Writing program, which took place in Natick (first week) and in Dublin, Ireland (second week). We'd like to spread the word about the impressive work being done in the Studio for the greater community of student writers," I'm happy to oblige. Such a nice young man, that Allan. He's Senior Class President, you know. Why can't you be more like him?

## Just Like You To Mess Up the Perfect Crime

As if the staff doesn't have enough work getting ready for Graduation, packing up supplies until next summer, and whatnot, now someone's apparently gone on some sort of murderous spree, judging from the chalk outlines that have appeared in front of Birch, by the Theater, and elsewhere on campus. You know, killing people is bad enough, but is it too much to ask that when you draw the chalk outline afterwards, you make it at least *vaguely* resemble a human being? The one outside Birch looks like somebody offed Gumby, for crying out loud.

## Five Stand Out Among Horde of Incompetents

Why even bother mentioning that John Becker, Sorina Higgins, Daniel Ruff, the Exiles on Main Street, and Team Pederson/Kaplan knew that Herman Melville was the answer to yesterday's trivia question when 250+ other Bread Loafers couldn't figure it out? Why not compliment your students for spelling their names correctly on their next essays? Why not take your spouse out to an elegant dinner for *not* cheating on you this year? Maybe you dim bulbs can figure today's question out, but since it has a lot of big, scary words like "catapulted" and "inmate" and "French" in it, I'm not getting my hopes up.

## Ten Things I Hate About You

Hey, if you're so desperate for validation that you'll come up with ideas for the **Top Ten Signs Your Roommate's Cracking Under Paper Stress** and cross your fingers that they'll meet with the approval of a balding 35-year-old who only recently learned that "innocuous" has two "n's and that "nonplussed" didn't mean "unaffected," then go right ahead and submit them to the *Crumb*. Then you can brag to your "friends" about how many of your responses were included in Friday's list, and they'll pretend to be impressed by your wit before rolling their eyes and shaking their heads as soon as you turn away.

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 26

Wednesday, August 3, 2005

????  
What does Leo  
DiCaprio  
unintentionally  
do after he dies  
in Baz  
Luhrmann's  
Romeo and  
Juliet?

## What's Up

Director's  
Reception  
5:00, West Lawn

Madrigalists  
7:30, East Lawn

Romeo and Juliet  
8:00, Theatre

Two Short Films  
by Mark Puckett  
8:00, Barn 1

## Menu

"Famished?  
Romeo is  
famished? There  
is no end, no limit,  
measure, bound..."

Fortunately,  
there's lamb or  
spanikopita for  
you tonight.

## Weather

Today:  
Isolated T-storms,  
87/63.

Tomorrow:  
Sticky and  
stormy, 91/71.

Friday:  
Morning showers,  
86/61.

## The Two Hours' Traffic of OUR Stage, Which All with Patient Ears Attend

*Romeo and Juliet* begins its long-anticipated five-night run this evening. The house will open immediately following the 7:30 Madrigalists concert, and please be sure to arrive on time, because there will be absolutely no late seating and almost certainly a long standby line. If you hold tickets that you do not plan to use, please return them to the Front Desk immediately so they can be re-distributed. If you do not have tickets but would like to attend any of the performances, arrive early and find Faye Christensen to have your name added to the standby list. On nights you're not watching the play, please walk quietly by the Theatre — the lit candles by the sidewalk are your sign that the play is in progress. And last (but certainly not least) — please don't give away the ending to all those people who don't know how the story goes!

## Never Was a Story of More Dough

In case you missed dinner last night, here are the winning poets and poems for this year's Robert Haiduke Poetry Prize at the Bread Loaf School of English.

The winner of the \$1,000 prize is Tamar Paull (Vermont campus) for her poem "Felice Makes a Splash." Four current Bread Loaf students won an honorable mention award of \$100 each in the contest. They are Julie Porter (Vermont campus) for her poem "Northeast Barbecue Championship"; Karin Gottshall (Vermont campus) for her poem "Tender"; Kevin Ellis (Vermont campus) for his poem "Uncle Tim at the Family Picnic"; and Christopher Holmes (Oxford campus) for his poem "Let Us Never Visit Wisconsin." Many thanks to our two judges, Paul Muldoon and David Huddle, thanks also to everyone who submitted a poem to the contest, and congratulations to the winners!

## Partying Is Such Sweet Sorrow

Today is the last of this summer's Director's Receptions, but if you spend the entire hour lamenting their imminent passing, all the chips and salsa and other refreshments will have disappeared into the craws of your less sentimental, more voracious peers.

## Mark, You, Me, on Wednesday

Everyone is invited to tonight's screening of two short films by Mark Puckett, "Unknown" and "The Development," beginning at 8 in Barn 1. Mark will stick around afterwards to answer questions and discuss his experiences as an independent filmmaker. Everyone is invited.

## Get Thee to Church on Thursday

BLTN members have met religiously each Thursday night this summer from 7-9 in Barn 1, and tomorrow's no exception — why on earth would you ever miss another chance to absorb the Gospel According to Dixie?

## Look to Hear Nothing But This Chord

One advantage of arriving early for *Romeo and Juliet* is nabbing a prime seat (not that any of the vantage points inside the Theatre are less than excellent); the other is getting to hear the Bread Loaf Madrigalists perform on the East Lawn. Starting at 7:30 each night of the show, the chorus will entertain you with a short set of pieces by artists as varied as Rodgers & Hart and Carole King & Maurice Sendak, culminating with the infamous Bread Loaf Fight Song.

## Wherefore Art Thou Roaming? Oh!

If you're thinking of heading to one of Bread Loaf's other outposts, consider attending one of the informational sessions Jim will hold over the next few days. He'll answer questions about the Alaska campus tomorrow at 5, talk about Oxford on Friday at 2, and discuss New Mexico on Monday at 5. All meetings are in Barn 1.

## She Hath Seen the Change of Forty Years

As it's highly likely that you'll head to, or through, the Library at some point this week, you should take a few minutes to check out the three-volume photographic history of Bread Loaf theatrical productions since 1966. Many thanks to Lexa deCourval for compiling this archive of material!

## Fain Would I Dwell on Form

If you've already returned the forms Elaine asked you so nicely to fill out — the evaluation of this summer and a reenrollment form for next year — then you have my permission to gaze smugly around your lunch table in the knowledge that you have proved as honorable and conscientious as your letters of recommendation made you sound. If, however, you realize that you have not yet completed the forms, hang your head in shame, varlet, and partake not of the plate of brownies soon to be proffered to the worthier members of your table.

## - DEPARTURE SLIP -

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your room: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your departure date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

## No Friendly Drop for Her?

Sarah Luskin has 2 tickets for Saturday night's performance of *Romeo and Juliet* and is interested in adding a third. If you have an extra ticket, get in touch with Sarah. If no one can offer a Saturday ticket, she would like to switch her two tickets for Saturday night with two tickets for Sunday night, so also get in touch with her if you can accommodate this backup plan.

## Putt Soft! Putt Light, Through Yonder

### Inch of Break

Today is your last chance to sign up for this weekend's Bread Loaf Golf Scramble. If you're interested in heading out to the course at 10 on Sunday for a fun round where your bad shots usually don't count, talk to Jon Freeman and he'll put you on a team.

## Bookstore Carries Nothing Whose Sale is

### Present Death

Remember to stop by the Bookstore soon to pick up the Bread Loaf T-shirt you may have ordered earlier in the summer. While you're there, be sure to snap up anything (detergent, shampoo, *Ulysses*) you know you'll need to get through this last week, as things will really begin to fly off the shelves when the prices drop by 20% starting Monday.

## These Fashion-Mongers, Who Stand So Much on the New Form

The Front Desk staff is eager to see your smiling face as much as possible before you leave Bread Loaf, so they've cunningly staggered pickup times for various items over the next few days. All-school photos and shots of the faculty, waitstaff, seniors, etc. are in and can be claimed starting today. If you ordered a Charlie Orr T-shirt, you can get it tomorrow. And if you need to ship anything home via UPS, pack it up and seal it on your own, bring the boxes to the Front Desk next Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 9-12 for Ed to coordinate shipment and collect your payment.

## Queen Mab Has The Lasht of Film

The final film of the summer will be *Persuasion*, Roger Michell's adaptation of Jane Austen's last completed novel. *Persuasion* stars Amanda Root and Ciaran Hinds alongside a veritable Who's Who of the British stage (Corin Redgrave, Fiona Shaw, Simon Russell Beale, Richard McCabe, John Woodvine), and should not require any great persuasion on my part to get you to attend. Showtime is, as usual, 9 p.m. on Friday.

## Stretches from an Inch Narrow to an Ell Broad

Although no one has yet signed up to lead or attend today's 5:00 yoga class, it can still happen if there's interest – just put your name on the signup sheet outside the Dining Hall. Beth Stanitski is slated to lead tomorrow's 2:00 session, and Rebecca Freeman plans to concentrate on the back and shoulders (the "paper injury" zones) during Sunday's class. Beginners are always welcome, and Sunday's class will serve as a particularly good introduction for newcomers while still providing a solid workout for more advanced folks.

## Say At Once What Thou Dost Know in This

Kurt Broderson, Marie D'Amato, Daniel Ruff, the Exiles on Main Street, Sorina Higgins, and Team Pederson/Kaplan all knew, without the benefit of a clue, that James Baldwin tried preaching, dishwashing, waiting tables, and doing time before he hit it big with *Go Tell It On the Mountain*. If you think you know the minor slip-up today's question refers to, send your guess to the *Crumb* mailbox by tomorrow morning for appropriate recognition.

## Black and Por-Ten-tous Must This Humor Prove

If you've come up with a few good ideas for this week's Top Ten Signs Your Roommate's Cracking Under the Paper Stress, it's probably also a good idea to tell him or her that any submissions he or she sees in Friday's *Crumb* under your name are pure imaginative constructs, not actual disturbing behavior that the frazzled roommate in question has actually been displaying. Otherwise, your roommate may read the list, assume that you're really talking about him or her, fail to remember ever having acted so oddly, doubt his or her sanity as a result, further fray his or her nerve endings, and wind up atop the Inn flagpole wearing nothing but a waitstaff apron and babbling to an imaginary seven-foot-tall earwig named Oscar he or she is convinced is the only creature who really understands the situation.

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 27

Thursday, August 4, 2005

????

Name EITHER  
the most  
common  
adjective in  
Shakespeare's  
works (2902  
occurrences) or  
the most  
common noun  
(2911). Articles  
and pronouns  
excluded.

## What's Up

Alaska Q&A  
5:00, Barn 1

Walnut Hill  
Writing Studio  
Info Session  
7:00, Blue Parlor

TN 7-9, Barn 1

Madrigalists  
7:30, East Lawn

Romeo and Juliet  
8:00, Theatre

Gilmore 9:00

## Menu

Chicken marsala  
or wild mushroom  
crepes Bismarck  
with orzo pilaf and  
summer roasted  
vegetables.

Tiramisu for  
dessert.

## Weather

Today:  
Isolated T-storms,  
90/71.

Weekend:  
Rain early  
tomorrow turning  
all sun by Sat.  
Highs around 85.

## R&J Confirms that Acting Ensemble, "That Shakespeare Guy" Awfully Good

A thunderous and sustained ovation – the loudest and longest this writer remembers ever hearing here – reverberated through the pines last night at 10:45, when the Acting Ensemble brought their first performance of *Romeo and Juliet* to a close. The smashing success of the play has led Jim Maddox to enlist the help of a team of scientists from the Olive Loaf School of Genetic Engineering to clone Stephen Thorne and Elizabeth Bunch, thereby guaranteeing an inexhaustible supply of Stephens, a bunch of Bunches, for all appropriately youthful roles (*Romeo*, *Juliet*, *Thomasina*, *Hotspur*) in Bread Loaf productions for decades to come.

If you're itching to go tonight or to any of the other performances, but don't have tickets, make sure you arrive early and get your name on Faye's standby list, as seats sometimes do go unclaimed. Likewise, if you have tickets that you find you can't use, get 'em back to the Front Desk ASAP so that they can be quickly turned around and given to one of the many hopefuls on the waiting list.

## Why Not Walnut?

Allan Reeder invites anyone interested in learning about the Writing Studio at Walnut Hill, an arts-intensive independent school in Natick, Massachusetts where students are developing a national literary magazine for young writers, to a brief informational session tonight in the Blue Parlor at 7:00. He'll have copies of the Studio's current magazine for attendees, featuring the work of winners of their first contest for young writers of verse and fiction (grades 8-11) from schools all over the world. Any teachers of promising young fiction-writers or poets may be interested in encouraging students to enter this year's contest. Last year's prize was \$500 and admittance to Walnut Hill's Summer Writing program, which took place in Natick (first week) and in Dublin, Ireland (second week). The session will last about 20 minutes, so there's plenty of time to attend it and still make it to the Theatre in time for the Madrigalists' performance.

## Alaska Mtng. Satisfies Your Hanker-age

If you're eager to find out more about Bread Loaf's Alaska program, don't ask the *Crumb* Bum, as he's never traveled there and only occasionally tuned in to *Northern Exposure*. Jim Maddox, however, will tell you all about our campus in Juneau today at 5 in Barn 1; if you're thinking about making the Last Frontier your next academic frontier, drop by and find out more.

Tomorrow afternoon at 2, Jim will talk about the Oxford campus; that meeting is open to all Bread Loafers considering heading to England in 2006 and should not be used for Oxford veterans to stage an angry protest over why Bread Loaf Vermont has not yet constructed its own "Deep Hall." A Santa Fe meeting is scheduled for 5:00 Monday.

## Gilmore Uncertainty Rouses Old Pining

Although a Gilmore event tonight cannot be officially confirmed as of press time, speculation continues that the usual bonfire and reading will, in fact, be on offer this evening – though whether the play will affect the usual 9 p.m. start time remains to be seen. Definitive word regarding the arrangements must therefore be communicated in a more primitive form – namely, a verbal announcement – at lunch or dinner today.

## Student Tips-iness Encouraged

For almost six weeks now, smiling waiters have fetched your food, brought your beverages, and cleaned your clutter. Tireless housekeepers have taken out your trash, cleaned your bathrooms, and vacuumed your hallways. For their labors, they've received little thus far from you except for an occasional "thanks." That can, and should, change – outside the Front Desk, you'll find envelopes for end-of-summer tips for these helpful folks. Calculate what six weeks' worth of such service on a daily basis should be worth (hint: a pretty fair amount) and give as generously as you can.

## One More BLTN Before Boltin'

The last of BLTN's Thursday meetings will take place tonight in Barn 1 from 7-9. But you knew that already.

## Madrigalists Present Throng Song

The Madrigalists will present their summer set of songs, including Phoebe Lewis' star turn in "Pierre," once again tonight at 7:30 on the East Lawn. The concert will last about fifteen minutes, after which the Theatre doors will be thrown open to admit tonight's eager throng.

## This Puts the "Sob" in Isobel

Isobel Armstrong and her Romantic Poetry students despair over the disappearance from her reserve shelves of *Romantic Women Poets: Voices and Countervoices*, which has been missing for several days now, in clear violation of the section of the Bread Loaf Code that states "Thou shalt not presume to hoard reserve texts for anything beyond a short time."

This is the first such plea the *Crumb* has received this year, but every summer reserve texts vanish from their ordinarily sacrosanct Davison resting places for prolonged periods. Use the reserve selections to your heart's content, but be considerate of others' needs and return such books promptly or at least leave a note so your classmates know where sought-after texts can be found.

## Grading Request Not Grating Request

Your grades will be accessible online sometime after the summer session ends; if, however, you require an official Middlebury transcript as documentation of your summer's work, you can obtain a request form from Elaine.

## Stick Around for Happy Ending

If you haven't already, please fill out the Departure Slip on the bottom of the front page and return it to the Front Desk. Classes end on Wednesday, but those whose departure times are still up in the air should know that we won't *make* you leave until Sunday morning. It's worth sticking around for Wednesday night's Farewell Banquet and an evening of porch gatherings that, for once, won't be booted to the Barn at 11; Thursday and Friday present opportunities to go souvenir-hunting in Burlington, swimming in Pleiad, dining at the A&W, or tick off any last items on your summer's to-do list. Saturday brings one last picnic at lunch, this one including seniors' friends and families, then the Commencement Banquet at 6, followed by the graduation ceremony and a champagne reception in the Barn. If you're not a senior or a waiter and you want to stick around for this last banquet, you're welcome to attend as long as you let Victoria know to reserve you a seat.

## Much To Do About Everything

I'm not going to nag you any more about all the things I've been telling you to do this week. If you've taken care of these, then you have nothing to worry about. If you haven't, well, you have only yourself to blame.

- Pick up Bread Loaf T-shirt at Bookstore
- Pick up Charlie Orr T-shirt at Front Desk
- Pick up photos you may have ordered at Front Desk
- Return evaluation form & reenrollment form to Office
- Leave tips for waiters & housekeepers at Front Desk

## Root Cause of Film's Success

*Persuasion*, showing tomorrow night at 9 in the Barn, was made in 1995, just at the height of the craze for all things Austen. Remember your *Northanger Abbey* lunchbox, the Special Edition Marianne Dashwood Barbie© (complete with realistic coughing action and Willoughby Ken), the brief fad for eschewing romantic promiscuity in favor of tangled courtships full of misapprehensions and correspondence refusing to disclose the names of key figures or locations any further than "Mr. R-----" or "outside the small village of A-----"? *Persuasion* stars Amanda Root as Anne Elliot in this acclaimed adaptation of Austen's autumnal, elegant last novel.

## Seniors Waiting for Good Dough

Your President commands: "Pizza at Flatbread Friday at 6 p.m. Be there or be square." And because there's little class distinction at Bread Loaf (seniors don't get extra-late curfew, nor do first-year students have to wear embarrassing beanies), President Reeder also decrees that this gathering be open to ALL Bread Loafers. If you're leaving before Commencement, this may well be your last chance to partake of the organic delicacies of the best eatery in town.

## Compressed Desires

Saturday's dance is a somewhat truncated affair, owing to our desire not to disturb the play, but its shortened length (10:45 or so until 1) usually results in a doubling of the intensity of the dance-floor gyrations. Everything but the start time is business as usual: bring your ID, don't drink outside the blue rope, don't request anything by Air Supply, and cool off afterwards with a dip in John's Pond.

## Harings Hopes Offer of Gas is Fortune's Fuel

Teresa Harings is looking for a ride to the Burlington airport on Saturday morning or early afternoon; if you can offer her a spot in your passenger seat, she'll pay for the gas to get you there *and back!* Such an offer will surely find a taker, no?

## Highway 125 Robbery

\$120 – two \$50 bills and a \$20 bill – was lost yesterday somewhere between the Inn and the Annex. If you encountered this sum and would like to see it properly restored to its rightful owner, or you know where it can be found, please stop by the Front Desk.

## No Respect for Elders, Woffords, Maddoxes...

After a summer in which Bread Loaf students and graduates dominated the Two Brothers Tavern's Wednesday trivia contests (six consecutive victories for Bread Loaf teams), we wondered what other challenges could possibly lie before us, what other foes remained to be vanquished. And there still existed, we realized, a group of foes terrifying in aspect but, we suspect, feeble in knowledge of celebrity marriages and world capitals and other minutiae having little or no interest to tenure committees or M.L.A. convention attendees.

Professors of Bread Loaf, we challenge YOU to form a team or teams of your so-called "best" minds. We challenge YOU to gather the courage to assemble next Wednesday night at 8 at the aforementioned Two Brothers Tavern. We even offer, if such inducement is necessary, to pay your \$2/person entry fees, confident that such outlays will return to our coffers at the close of the evening.

Oh, we know what you'll say. *I have to start my comments. I have papers to grade. We professors don't associate with your kind outside the classroom.* Feeble excuses all. After all, didn't your students find time for Trivia Night during *their* most stressful weeks? Don't students sign that waiver so you can scribble something like "Oh, she's fine. Emily, if she asks for a recommendation just pull out the usual boilerplate praise"? Could it be that you're *afraid to lose*?

I suppose we'll find out next Wednesday, shall we? Well, the gauntlet is down, the choice yours, and the challenge waiting.

## Trivia Doesn't Get Blank Stare from These Three

Kris Schaffner joins the usual suspects, Kurt Broderson and Team Pederson/Kaplan, in today's trivia pantheon. All of them knew that Leonardo DiCaprio blinks after his Romeo dies in Baz Luhrmann's film. Please don't take time from your studies to do a complete tally of all the words in the Shakespearean canon to figure out today's answer; an educated guess, given to the *Crumb* via campus mail, e-mail, or word of mouth by tomorrow morning, will suffice.

## Top Ten Tension

Tomorrow, of course, is the day the list of the Top Ten Signs Your Roommate's Cracking Under Paper Stress appears in the *Crumb*. If you have a roommate, you may want to devote an hour or three this evening to careful observation of the particular nature of his or her stress; be sure to take up a position that allows you to gauge sweat production, violent tremors, psychotic mutterings, etc. If you do not have a roommate, try setting up shop on the second floor of Davison, the Barn, the Main Library, or other locations measuring High on the Meltdown Probability Index. Interacting with subjects is often productive; some subscribe to the theory that the best stressful reactions are evoked by gentle inquiries such as "How's it going?", while others adhere to the belief that harsher tactics – looking over the shoulder and saying "You really think *that*?" elicits better results. Whatever your methodology, get your list of symptoms to the *Crumb* by 10 a.m. tomorrow, and he'll include the best submissions in that afternoon's issue.

**DEPARTURE SLIP – DEPARTURE SLIP – DEPARTURE SLIP – DEPARTURE SLIP**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date/time: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 28

Friday, August 5, 2005

????

What famous  
line does  
R&J share  
with "Hakuna  
Matata"?

## What's Up

### Friday:

Oxford Q&A  
2:00, Barn 1

Yoga 2:00, Barn 2

Asheville Q&A  
2:30, Blue Parlor

Madrigalists 7:30

R & J 8:00

Persuasion 9:00

### Saturday:

Charlie Orr 5K  
9:30, John's Pond

Madrigalists 7:30

R & J 8:00

Dance 10:45-1

### Sunday:

Golf Scramble 10

Yoga 11, Barn 2

Blue Parlor 7:30

## Menu

Jane's chicken  
finger parmesan or  
cheese manicotti;  
zucchini; a sweet  
surprise for  
dessert.

## Weather

Today:  
Scattered T-  
storms, 85/58.

Weekend:  
Gorgeous,  
cooling. Sunny,  
low to mid-80's.

## Carolina On My Mind: Bread Loaf to Open Asheville Campus in 2006

As you probably know from hearing Jim's announcement yesterday or reading his posting in CyberBarn, Bread Loaf will expand into North Carolina in 2006, opening a campus at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. By doing so, Bread Loaf truly "corners" the summertime graduate studies market, having now established outposts in each of the four geographical quadrants of the U.S.

Those interested in finding out more about the university, the city, and the summer program may want to attend a Q&A meeting with Jim and Bill Spellman, Associate Vice Chancellor for the Humanities at UNCA and one of the prime movers behind Bread Loaf's expansion into the Southeast, in the Blue Parlor at 2:30. You can also find out more about the program when Jim hosts another informal informational session on Tuesday at 5 in Barn 1. Students who have already submitted their re-enrollment forms to Elaine but now wish to switch to Asheville should stop by the Office before departing.

## The Show Must Go On

Students who haven't yet seen *Romeo and Juliet* are probably being driven crazy by all the recent buzz about how this year's production makes the play seem brand-new, about how all other Mercutios pale before Ben Steinfeld's, about how genuinely and charmingly *teenaged* the young lovers seem. Well, the cure is obvious – go see the play for yourself if you haven't already. Get to the Theatre at 7:30 for the Madrigalists' songs (not to mention some amateur theatrics reminiscent of the motley crew in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), after which the house will open for the 8:00 curtain.

## No Clash with London Calling

Emily Bartels will be holding an informational session at 2:00 (not the usual 5:00 meeting time) in Barn 1 for students contemplating Bread Loaf's Oxford campus as their 2006 destination. The overlap between the 2:00 Oxford meeting and the 2:30 Asheville informational session should cause no concern; Jim will lead another Asheville Q&A on Tuesday afternoon, and the difficulty of attending both of this afternoon's sessions is intended as a sign of the physical-temporal impossibility of attending both the Oxford and Asheville campuses next summer, no matter how enticing each sounds.

## Students Require Persuasion to See Film

Roger Michell's acclaimed adaptation of Jane Austen's *Persuasion* is tonight's Barn film (9:00 showtime); Amanda Root stars as Jane Elliott in a story that seems typically Austenian: romantic interests develop gradually and haltingly under the long shadows cast by matters of finance that remain everpresent and largely unspoken.

## Be the Glass of Fashion, Mould of Form

Turning in your evaluation and reenrollment forms promptly, and asking Elaine for a transcript request form if you need an official grade report, is highly advised. Those who complete these end-of-summer tasks earn priceless Elaine Brownie Points and are less likely to find themselves residing in whatever dorm's off its foundations next summer or enrolled in the little-known Greenland campus.

## Yoga Bends its Rules for Sunday Session

Rebecca Freeman would like all yoga-goers to know two things: first, that Sunday's class will begin at 11, not 10, and second, that she'll focus on the back and shoulders, those areas most likely to be sore from hours of slouching in unforgiving Library chairs while trying to figure out whether that new jargon you've invented for your Epic Homecomings paper will pass muster with Susanne. Please sign up outside the Dining Hall or let Rebecca know that you're planning to attend.

## Shortened Dance Features Ben Folds 2½, 2 Non Blondes, 25 Cent

Although tomorrow's dance is shorter than usual (it won't begin until after the play ends, at about 10:45), there probably won't be the typical slow first hour; if anything, the knowledge that time is fleeting and the desire to alleviate paper pressure makes for especially energetic move-busting, groove thing-shaking, and down-getting.

## Final Readings Have You Feeling Blue?

Charles Byrne, Kelly Coffey, Mark Puckett, Stephanie Hughes, and David Wandera serve as the closing acts of this summer's series of Blue Parlor readings. They'll wow you with their work at 7:30 on Sunday in the Blue Parlor.

## Mister UPS

If you bring any packages you'd like shipped home to the Front Desk on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday morning, Ed Brown will be waiting for you with a scale, a UPS price list, and the proper forms. You must supply your own boxes and your own tape; everything must arrive at the Front Desk ready to go.

## Something Big in Store for You

Bad news: the Bookstore is closed today. Good news: by the time you read this, it would've been closed for the day even if it had been open. Better news: when it reopens on Monday, most everything will have been reduced by 20%. (Prices, that is, not page lengths; if you really want to read *Absalom, Absalom!*, don't think for a second that it'll be waiting for you with only 258 pages instead of 320.)

## Poof! The Magic Dragon Makes Money Reappear

A heartfelt thank you to kitchen staff member Mary Dragon, who found the missing \$120 mentioned in yesterday's *Crumb* and turned it in to be reunited with its proper owner. As if the kitchen staff needed to do *more* to wow us this summer...next thing you know, they'll expand the post-meal coffee options to include nonfat half-caff mocha cappuccinos and soy chai lattes.

## Name That Toon

Beauty's not skin deep in Shakespeare's word frequency, either. Although several guessers thought "fair" (831 occurrences) was the Bard's most common adjective, Rebecca Freeman, Kurt Broderson, Team Pederson/Kaplan, Carrie Jewell, and Marie D'Amato all surmised that "good" (2902 times!) was the actual answer. Daniel Ruff was the sole identifier of the most common noun, "king" (2911 appearances, including stage directions).

Today's question should be a simple one, especially if you have children who can recite *The Lion King* from memory. Or if you can recite *The Lion King* from memory. (The aging *Crumb* Bum must remind himself that when *The Lion King* was released, many of you students were still, like, in fourth grade.) Hint: The line in question is not "When I was a young wart-HOOOGGGG..."

## Don't Try These At Home

What follows is a Top Ten list of **humorous** signs that you're overstressed – do not, in your haste, mistake it for a list of recommended remedies for writer's block. Apparently, one of the symptoms of actual paper stress is not being able to find time to invent fanciful symptoms of paper stress, but a few groups, who either don't have papers to write (Santa Fe Fighting Llamas, Fyler Family, etc.) or have their priorities inverted (Boys of Barn East, anyone?), managed to chip in to this week's

### Top T(w)en(ty-Three) Signs That Your Roommate's Cracking Under Paper Stress

22. Still hasn't changed out of Suppressed Desires costume. (EMS, BOBE)
21. Wears antennas made from coat hangers to get thesis ideas from the mother ship. (BOBE)
20. Hands you a shovel and a map to Frost's grave and says, "The old man is gonna tell us what made all the difference once and for all." (BOBE)
19. When he suddenly looks like he's trying out for Tom Hanks' role in *Cast Away*. (FF)
18. There's a coffee IV in the shower. (EMS)
17. Building a toilet paper fortress around his desk in Davison while the rest of us are asleep. (CA)
16. Climbing birches (again). (CA)

15. Busted out the old scythe and began haying BL meadow in hopes of finding thesis for Frost paper. (SFFL)

14. When asked how she is, screams "I'm fine!! My paper is perfect! I'm loving it!!", then strangles the questioner. (SG)

13. Asher's not the only one wearing a Spiderman costume. (BOBE)

12. Convinced that East Middlebury is Athens and Bread Loaf the magical Forest, she wakes you up at dawn as Oberon, clamoring for love-juice. (SHU)

11. Starts rummaging through the Apple Cellar recycle bins for a paper, any paper, really, that deadline is getting close, wait – does that one say Shakespeare?, that's close to Tolstoy... (BOBE)

10. Peeking over her shoulder one night, you see her thesis is "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy..." (BOBE)

9. Tries to switch out of classes at the last minute and enroll in Croutons. (SFFL)

8. Sculpts a huge pile of mashed potatoes on a plate and says "this means something." (BOBE)

7. Has completely scrapped plans for tawdry Bread Loaf summer romance. (SFFL)

6. Begins rehearsals for final paper as performance art. (EMS)

5. Complains loudly that the vile strumpet Fortune hasn't provided a Chaucer paper yet. (SFFL)

4. Starts hinting that there is an "easy way to make \$100," nodding suggestively at her laptop. (BOBE)

3. Stress? What are you talking about? Bread Loaf has been over for weeks now! (SFFL)

2. His final Shakespeare piece is short: "Because he's da man!" (EMS)

1. Starts price checking 1000 monkeys and 1000 typewriters on Eba (BOBE)

Current standings: Boys of Barn East (BOBE) 42; Santa Fe Fighting Llamas (SFFL) 33; Cherry-Atrics (CA) 13; Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 9; Director's Assistants (DA) 9; Sarah Chapple (SC) 8; Sorina Higgins (SH) 7; 11 O'Clock Club (11) 7; Hennelly Party of 6 (HP6) 6; Kilgore Trout (KT) 5; Ladies of Larch (LOL) 4; Men of Annex (MOA) 2; Off-Campus with Offspring (OCWO) 2; Oxford Seniors (OX) 2; Virginia (V) 2; Daniel Ruff (DR) 1; Not-So-Mannerly Manor (NMM) 1; Super Girl (SG) 1; Fyler Family (FF) 1; Stephanie Hughes (SHU) 1.

There's still time to squeeze in one more round of fun, so start thinking of ideas for **Top Ten Endings for Bread Loaf: The Movie** and get 'em to Jon by Wednesday morning for publication in the final *Crumb* of 2005.

**DEPARTURE SLIP – DEPARTURE SLIP – DEPARTURE SLIP – DEPARTURE SLIP**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date/time: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Crumb Expands Its Staff

*The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English*

Volume 86, Number 29

Monday, August 8, 2005

????

**How many characters die in Romeo and Juliet?**

**What's Up**

**Santa Fe Q&A**  
5:00, Barn 1

**Directing Scenes Theatre**

Elaine Karten, 7  
Marisa Ortega, 7:20  
Elizabeth Buettner, 7:45

Kris Schaffner, 8:05  
Helen Wintle, 8:25  
Allan Reeder, 8:45

**Tomorrow**  
PS Shipping 9-12

Bookstore Sale  
8:30-12:30

Pick Up Regalia  
8:30-12:30

Asheville Q&A 5

Directing Scenes  
7-8:45

**Menu**

Maple-thyme-balsamic glazed chicken or creamed corn-roasted red pepper-jalapeno risotto; tomato-zucchini napoleons; something yummy for dessert.

**Weather**

**Today:**  
Sunny, 89/66.

**Tomorrow:**  
Mostly sunny,  
90/68.

**Wednesday:**  
Isolated storms,  
90/67

**Directing Scenes Make You Howl with Laughter, Joy, Admiration** by Allen Ginsberg  
I saw the best minds of my generation implored by classmates, amazing hilarious learned, dragging themselves to the Theatre at dusk looking for an acting fix, angelheaded lit-sters burning for the ancient heavenly connection to the starry dynamo in the Theatre tonight, where the Directing Workshop students present final scenes for the public,

who can stay for one scene or many, but enter and exit only between scenes and not during them, who saw Elaine Karten direct part of Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs* at 7:00, who watched Marisa Ortega's 7:20 scene from *Burn This*, who at 7:45 saw Elizabeth Buettner's scene from *Lysistrata* who stayed for a scene from *The Allergist's Wife* by Charles Busch, directed by Kristin Schaffner, at 8:05, who at 8:25 watched *Success* by Arthur Kopit directed by Helen Wintle, who finished with an 8:45 scene from *Frankie and Johnny* by Terence McNally, directed by Allan Reeder. with the absolute heart of these plays of life acted out of their own bodies good to remember a thousand years.

What directors of flesh and blood threw open their scenes tomorrow to the public and ate up their brains and imagination? More luck! Mary Johnson directing *Journey into that Goodnight* tomorrow at 7! More luck! *What the Butler Saw* by Joe Orton and directed by Chris Merrill tomorrow at 7:20! More luck! *Light Years* by Billie Aronson directed by Andy Goff next at 7:40! More luck! Then Jan Menon directs *The Happy Prince* by Oscar Wilde at 8:00! More luck! And Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Tara Tanner at 8:20! More luck! More scenes! Lights going up in the Theatre! Words pouring out of actors' mouths! Applause streaming from the audience!

**Light Out for New Territory** by Sam Clemens  
You don't know about New Mexico, without you've been there already, but that ain't no matter. Mr. Jim Maddox'll answer questions about the school in Santer Fe (leastways I reckon that's how Aunt Polly tolle me to call it) this evenin' at 5 in Barn 1; if you're wantin' to go out to that Asheville territory, well, that meeting ain't till tomorrow at 5, as he can't well talk about both at the same time without folks gettin' all confused and not knowing East from West. They're both right different from Vermont, what with them being so far away and all, but I reckon you'd enjoy yourself either place. I oughta know. I been there before.

**Carol Lines** by Ogden Nash  
Tomorrow at 5's the meeting for Asheville.  
(At least that's what I hear in Nash-ville.)

**What Can Brown Do For You?**

by e.e. cummings  
anything shipped to your pretty how town  
(ups all organized by ed brown)  
address boxes tape string  
you won't use ed's your own you'll bring

boxes and bins (both little and small)  
he'll ed help ship anything at all  
he packed his packings she packed her hers  
morning tuesday wednesday thurs

children guessed (but only a few)  
and if they forgot the crumb it knew  
bring ed your boxes on any those days  
hell weigh them youll pay him hell ship them away

parcels and packets (for street and lane)  
Montana, Missouri, New Mexico, Maine  
sent them going and went their way  
ups ed front desk on tuesday

**Senior Reception Off the Beaten Plath**

You do not do, you do not do  
Work any more, hooray, 'tis true,  
You seniors, having worked like dogs  
For six long weeks, tired and hard,  
Barely daring to breathe or Achoo,

Lest someone in Davison shush you.  
But by Wednesday, you'll no longer be blue  
And an Earthworm Reception, a bowl full of shrimp,  
Is waiting, a celebration long overdue –  
It sounds too good to be true.

Shrimpy, I will have to eat you.  
The faculty will be eating them too.  
And drinking champagne, and talking of things  
Academic, or not – whatever you want to.  
The Red Sox? Your classes? Blink-182?

If you've had one shrimp, why not twenty-two?  
And those professors (who always liked you).  
They are laughing and chatting with you.  
They always knew you'd get through.  
Happy, happy, you seniors, you're through.

**This Is Just To Say Do This Right Now**

by William Carlos Williams  
so much depends  
upon

the waiters and house  
keepers

for whom a tip  
envelope's

outside the front  
desk.

### **Talking of Graduation – Oh! by T.S. Eliot**

The cap and gown that seniors hang upon their closet-roads  
 The gown and cap that graduating seniors ordered  
 Land tomorrow in a corner of the Bookstore.  
 Linger until their rightful wearers pick them up.  
 Let fall upon your backs your master's gowns,  
 Slip on the mortarboard, make a happy shriek,  
 Pose for some pictures for family to keep,  
 And seeing that it was a lovely August night,  
 Twirl once before your mirror, and to Commencement leap.

### **You List These at 20% Off! by James Joyce**

I know them well who was the first person in the bookstore before there was anybody else there to take the last of the syrup who ah that they dont know neither do I so there you are but everything else is twentypercent off this week and oh yes I will be there to buy they might as well try to stop the sun from rising tomorrow the sun shines on your brilliant purchases he said the day we were lying among the evergreens outside Davison he in his teeshirt so inexpensive and his fetching breadloaf hat also bought at twentypercent off the day I got him to propose to go to the bookstore tomorrow with me yes to buy more and more first I gave him the bit of discounted maple sugar out of my mouth and it was august like now yes my God at that big bookstore sale I near lost my breath yes he said the prices are amazingly low and then he asked me would I yes to say yes Ill buy you any book you want and some toothpowder to boot and first I put my arms around him yes and his heart was going like mad at the thought of saving money and yes I said yes I will yes.

### **Orr-dyssey Leads People Away, Home**

Sing, goddess, the raging start of the Orr Race,  
 and its destination, wine-dark waters of John's Pond, which eased  
 pains thousandfold upon the Achievers.  
 What gods or mortals proved most worthy that day?  
 Mercury's son, David Emory, who with celerity drove first to the  
 finish line, and swift-footed Abby Cohen, first female,  
 then others, muscles aching, bodies glistening with sweat, heads  
 ringed with persistent deerflies, cascaded round the course and  
 collapsed victorious and exhausted, and gave thanks to the gods,  
 and maximum glory to Max Green-Lewis in running shorts blessed by  
 Athena, he was the first in the school-age division, with Ben  
 Freedman just behind.  
 Two score competitors raced, and honor awaited their arrival, even the  
 last finishers greeted with cheers and anointed with sweet nectar.  
 Such was the road race of Charlie Orr, Loafer of legend.

### **Trivia by Vladimir Nabokov**

Trivia, light of my life, fire of my mind. My sin, my soul. Tri-via: the lilt of the lips making two sussurations to gasp at three through the teeth. Tri. Vi. A.  
 They knew which heroine stood 4 feet 10 in one sock. (Lolita.) They knew what Lola got. (Whatever Lola wants.). They knew who the famous Dolly was. (A cloned sheep.) They knew what was Dolores' last name in the Stephen King title. (Claiborne.) They even knew what line *Romeo and Juliet* and "Hakuna Matata" shared. ("What's in a name?") Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, exhibit number one is who the seraphs, the misinformed, simple, noble-winged seraphs, envied. Look at who answered the tangled thorny question: Daniel Ruff, Chris North, Kurt Broderson, Team Pederson/Kaplan.

### **To He\$# With These &@#\*ing Sonnets**

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
 How do I love thy ideas for Top Ten Endings to *Bread Loaf: The Movie?*  
 Let me count the ways.  
 Ten, moron. That's why it's called a "Top Ten List."  
 By Wed. morning. To the *Crumb*.

### **At Senior Prom – by Emily Dickinson**

At Senior Prom – this Friday night  
 A King – and Queen – are Crowned –  
 Then Vote – for whom you'd like to See –  
 Hold Scepters – of their Own –

### **Can't Repair the Past? Of Course You Can!**

by F. Scott Fitzgerald

We saw Travis Farrell's automobile and the crowd when we were still some distance away.

"It's scratched!" said Tom. "That's bad. Travis'll need to get it repaired. We'll take a look," he said doubtfully, "just a look."

I became aware now of a hollow, wailing sound which issued incessantly from the Milkhouse, a sound which as we got out of the coupe resolved itself into the words "No note! Didn't even leave a note!" uttered over and over in a barely audible moan.

"There's some bad trouble here," said Tom excitedly. "What happened?—that's what I want to know."

"There was my car, parked by the Milkhouse," said Travis, "and looks like someone – someone was backing into a spot, an' didn't do a very good job." I saw then that there was a long scar on the front passenger door panel of Travis's 1999 Saab 9-3 four-door hatchback, and a dent on the lower half of the rear door panel. "I just noticed the damage yesterday – I haven't even driven the car since Tuesday, so it could have been anytime since then," Travis continued.

"That God damned coward," Tom said. "He didn't even stop his car? Or leave a note?"

"No...no, but I'm not upset," Travis responded. "Accidents happen. I'm approachable. I don't want to make an ordeal out of it – but I'd like to find out if anyone knows what happened."

### **To The Airport by Virginia Woolf**

"Yes, of course, if it's fine tomorrow," said Mrs. Ramsay. "But you'll have to be up with the lark," she added.

To Tilda Kapuya and Heather James these words conveyed an extraordinary joy, as if it were settled, their airport expeditions bound to take place, Tilda having been looking for a ride to Burlington by 5:00 Sunday morning for her flight back home to San Francisco and Heather having offered \$45 to the heavenly soul willing to get her to the airport on Wednesday morning for a 4 a.m. flight.

The wonder to which they looked forward – the offer of a ride – was shared by Kimberly Dill and Tara Boland, both needing rides on Thursday morning to the Burlington airport, both paying for gas.

"But," said Mr. Ramsay to his wife, stopping in front of the drawing-room window, "you're a fictional character, and you'll die between Sections I and II of our novel, so you can't very well give anyone a ride to the airport."

"But it may be fine – I expect it will be fine – **someone, I mean, will get these ladies to the airport**," Mrs. Ramsay said.

## **Ye Olde Royal Court Ballot**

Vote for a king & queen, two kings, two queens, or any other combination...

Monarch #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Monarch #2: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Crumb Final Exam

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 30

Tuesday, August 9, 2005

## Quotable

"Finished, it's finished, nearly finished, it must be nearly finished."

-Samuel Beckett

## What's Up

**Asheville Q&A**  
5:00, Barn 1

**Directing Scenes**  
7-8:45, Theatre

**Tomorrow:**  
UPS 9-12  
Last Day of Bookstore Sale  
8:30-12:30

Mr. Reception 5:00

Closing Banquet  
6:00

Hayride 7:00

Slide Show 9:00

## Menu

Cod fricassee with potatoes, mushrooms, and corn or vegetable strudel with basil-red pepper pesto, mesclun greens, and Tuscan bean puree; peach cobbler.

## Weather

**Today:**  
Isolated storms, 87/67.

**Tomorrow:**  
Isolated storms, 89/68.

**Graduation Weekend:**  
Possible storms, mid-80's.

## About the Crumb Final Exam

**Directions:** Answer all the questions on this sheet. Show your work. Use only a #2 pencil. Darken all circles completely. Keep your eyes on your own paper. You have 35 minutes to complete this test. You may begin.

## Part I: Directing Scenes

**Directions:** Put a check next to the Directing Workshop scenes you plan to attend tonight starting at 7 in the Theatre.

- \_\_\_\_ 7:00 *Journey into that Goodnight*, directed by Mary Johnson
- \_\_\_\_ 7:20 from *What the Butler Saw* by Joe Orton, directed by Chris Merrill
- \_\_\_\_ 7:40 from *Light Years* by Billie Aronson, directed by Andy Goff
- \_\_\_\_ 8:00 from *The Happy Prince* by Oscar Wilde, directed by Jan Menon
- \_\_\_\_ 8:20 from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, directed by Tara Tanner
- \_\_\_\_ All of the above

## Part II: Asheville Trivia

**Directions:** Attend today's informational session about Bread Loaf's Asheville campus (5:00, Barn 1). Put a "T" next to all statements about Asheville, NC or Bread Loaf's program there that are true. Put an "F" next to all statements that are false.

- \_\_\_\_ Asheville is the boyhood home of Thomas Wolfe, author of *Look Homeward, Angel*
- \_\_\_\_ The city is named after tennis great Arthur Ashe
- \_\_\_\_ Entire course devoted to learning how to spell last name of Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski
- \_\_\_\_ Nestled in the scenic Smoky Mountains
- \_\_\_\_ Gilmore conveniently located equidistant from Vermont and NC campuses, enabling residents to choose classes from either program
- \_\_\_\_ Southern literature a possible focus of curriculum
- \_\_\_\_ Cafeteria beverage options: water, lemonade, frosty and potent mint julep

## Part III: Percents

**Directions:** Calculate how much the following items will cost this week during the Bookstore's 20% off sale, ending tomorrow at 12:30:

- a. Jim Maddox, *Opening Night Addresses: Twenty-Three Different Ways of Describing Ellen While Keeping a Straight Face* – original price \$16.95
- b. *Derrida for Dummies* – original price \$13.00
- c. Get The &#@ OFF! industrial-strength insect repellent, effective against mosquitoes up to 12 lbs – original price \$5.25
- d. "English Teachers Do It Well – Not Good, Well" bumper sticker – original price \$1.99
- e. *Chicken Soup for the Veronese Teenager in Love with the Child of a Mortal Enemy's Soul* – original price \$15.95

## Part IV: UPS Cost Analysis

**Directions:** Bring your packages to the Front Desk, boxed and sealed, between 9 and 12 tomorrow or Thursday for shipment home. Calculate the approximate cost of sending the following items UPS Ground:

1. Course texts for Epic Homecomings (14 lbs.) to Tacoma, WA
2. Reserve texts for Epic Homecomings (5,284 lbs.) to State College, PA
3. Yourself (and two days' supply of bottled water and Frito-Lay© snack food) to Grand Forks, ND

## Part V: Miscellany

**Directions:** Determine whether the following tasks are required (R), encouraged (E), optional (O), or prohibited (P).

- \_\_\_\_ Leave generous tips for Housekeepers and Waitstaff at Front Desk
- \_\_\_\_ Disassemble Adirondack chair; stash in trunk
- \_\_\_\_ Complete evaluation and reenrollment forms; return to Office
- \_\_\_\_ Fill car with "Instant Gilmore Kit": ¼ cord firewood, matches, Otter Creek, copy of *Ellen*, headlamp, Mike Spillman, guest faculty reader David Huddle
- \_\_\_\_ Select particularly attractive tadpole from John's Pond; name him/her "Lil' Sharkey"; raise to adulthood
- \_\_\_\_ Vote for Senior Class Prom Kings/Queens; attend dance on Friday night
- \_\_\_\_ Encourage newly crowned monarchs to perform interpretive dance to traditional coronation hymn, "I've Had The Time Of My Life" from *Dirty Dancing*
- \_\_\_\_ Return library books to Davison
- \_\_\_\_ Gradually reacquaint yourself with "cell phones," "television," "air conditioning," "Starbucks," other wondrous features of "real world"
- \_\_\_\_ Stay for Commencement Banquet on Saturday night
- \_\_\_\_ If you're not a senior, tell Victoria you're planning to stay for Commencement Banquet
- \_\_\_\_ Return condoms taken from laundry room in anticipation of never-materialized romantic escapade
- \_\_\_\_ Cough up Crumb subscription fee (\$142.95 plus tax)

## Part VI: Cap & Gown Multiple Choice

**Question #1:** Where and when should seniors pick up their graduation regalia? **More than one correct answer.**

- a) Bookstore, 8:30-12:30 tomorrow morning.
- b) Front Desk, after Bookstore closes tomorrow.
- c) Not applicable – I'm sportin' a hood and *nothing else!*

**Question #2:** Where and when should faculty pick up their graduation regalia?

- a) In Treman, sometime before Saturday.
- b) While waiting for someone else to choose Jenga piece to remove during Thursday night's crazy faculty-only post-comment-writing blowout bash.
- c) As soon as jewelers are done polishing and further encrusting matching accoutrements (orb, scepter, mace).

## Part VII: Senior Reception Etiquette

Should you find your path to the bowl of shrimp obstructed by one of your professors at tomorrow afternoon's Senior Class reception (5 p.m., Earthworm), what does Emily Post say is the most effective method of gaining access? Explain your answer.

- a) "Pardon me, Professor, but could I just get some shrimp?"
- b) "Hey, isn't that Mikhail Bakhtin over by the cashews?"
- c) Kidney punch, elbow to chin, pile driver

## Part VIII: Car Problem Word Problem

A car moving at 3 m.p.h. outside the Barn last week scrapes the passenger side of Travis Farrell's Saab, leaving a long scar on the passenger door and a dent on the rear door panel. Assuming that the damage was accidental in nature, that Travis is not furious, and that all Bread Loafers are upstanding citizens, write a short but convincing essay arguing that the perpetrator should contact Travis to discuss the damage.

## Part IX: Airport Ride Reimbursement

*Directions:* Given your car's gas mileage, the current price of fuel, and the 44-mile distance from Bread Loaf to the Burlington airport, calculate how much you stand to earn from the following people, all of whom are looking for rides and will reimburse their drivers for fuel.

- 1. Tilda Kapuya (needs to get there at 5 a.m. on Sunday)
- 2. Kimberly Dill and Tara Boland (need to get there Thursday morning)

Extra Credit #1: If you drive Heather James' husband to the airport Wednesday morning in time for his 6:30 a.m. flight, how many cans of Red Bull would you be able to purchase with the \$45 she is offering to pay?

Extra Credit #2: Chris Nattrass is seeking either a ride to the airport or to NYC on Wednesday afternoon. For each trip, calculate the amount he would willingly fork over for gas and the total number of songs your iPod would shuffle through on your way to each destination.

## Part X: Banquet Brain Teasers

*Directions:* Given the likely quality of the food at tomorrow night's Closing Banquet (6:00, Dining Hall) and the consistent excellence of the summer's fare, determine:

- 1. the appropriate length and volume of the ovation for Chef Jim Logan and his kitchen staff
- 2. how much of a bargain the \$1,315 meals fee in Vermont represents compared what a summer's worth of similar meals in restaurants would cost you
- 3. the amount necessary to entice Jim to abandon the kitchens of Middlebury to serve as your personal chef

## Part XI: Top Ten Teaser

*Question:* Of the ideas in tomorrow's list of the **Top Ten Endings to Bread Loaf: The Movie**, how many will the Boys of Barn East contribute?

- a) 7
- b) 5
- c) 1, intimidated by the recent infiltration of the Vermont campus by a contingent of Santa Fe Fighting Llamas
- d) Zip, zero, zilch, nada, unless the *Crumb* Bum receives his customary \$10-per-submission "processing fee" before tomorrow morning

## Part XII: Slide Show Stumper

*Directions:* Match the different kinds of photographs Ed Brown will include in tomorrow night's 9 p.m. Barn slide show with the most appropriate reaction.

- 1. Glorious Vermont sunset
- 2. Adirondack chair w/picturesque backdrop
- 3. Cavorting Freedman, Brown, Muldoon children
- 4. Post-Suppressed Desires "snogging" in darkened corner of Barn

- a) "Ooohhhh!"
- b) "Awwwww...."
- c) "Eeewwww!!!"
- d) "Ahhhhh..."

## Part XIII: Hayride Multiple Choice

*Directions:* Bring your children to a hayride tomorrow night, beginning between the Inn and the Annex at 7:00. As the ride is for **children only**, answer the following questions to determine whether you are eligible for the hayride.

- 1. What is that on your face?
  - a) Long, flowing beard
  - b) Most of my piece of chocolate cake
- 2. What new words did you learn this summer?
  - a) Semiotics, gendered, performativity
  - b) Booger
- 3. Who is famous for his portrayals of Romeo, Hamlet, and Scrooge?
  - a) Sir Laurence Olivier
  - b) Wishbone

## Part XIV: Trivia Trouble

*Directions:* Research back issues of 2005 *Crumb* to determine final standings of summer's trivia contest and verify accuracy of following awards for answering yesterday's question correctly (6 deaths in *R & J* – Romeo, Juliet, Mercutio, Tybalt, Paris, and Lady Montague):

**Champion, Individual Division** Kurt Broderson

**Champion, Group Named After Stones Album Division** Exiles on Main Street

**Champion, Homophonic Last Name Division** Daniel Ruff

**Special Judges' Extra Credit Award** Tilda Kapuya, for pointing out that several Mantuans must have died in the plague as well

**Champion, Under-18 Division** Phoebe Lewis

**Champion, Actor Who Should Know Because He's One of the Six Corpses Division** Ben Stinfeld

**Champion, Group Division, Even Though They Forgot Lady Montague and Got Yesterday's Question Wrong Division** Team Pederson/Kaplan

## Ye Olde Promme Court Ballot

Vote for a king & queen, two kings, two queens, or any other combination...

Monarch #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Monarch #2: \_\_\_\_\_

# It Crumbs Down To This

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 86, Number 31

Wednesday, August 10, 2005

## Quotable

"The woods are  
lovely, dark,  
and deep,  
But I have  
promises to  
keep,  
And miles to go  
before I sleep,  
And miles to go  
before I sleep."

-Robert Frost

## What's Up

Senior Reception  
5:00, Earthworm

Closing Banquet  
6:00, Dining Hall

Kids' Hayride  
7:00, Behind Inn

Slide Show  
9:00, Barn

## Menu

Creole roast pork  
with sour orange-  
toasted garlic  
sauce or sweet  
potato polenta  
with artichoke-  
garlic-feta sauté.

## Weather

Today:  
Mostly sunny,  
91/68

Rest of the  
Week:  
Sun tomorrow  
turning to  
possible storms  
Fri. & Sat.

## Hors d'Over

Jim Maddox invites the Senior Class to celebrate the end of their several summers' labors with a shrimp and champagne reception with the faculty this afternoon at 5 at Earthworm. Dress is smart casual, which for Emily Bartels includes elbow pads to facilitate access to the shrimp.

## The Last Supper

You'll notice at dinner that our numbers will already have dwindled considerably, but that won't prevent the diners from making lots of joyful noise at tonight's Closing Banquet. Dinner will be, as usual, delectable, and afterwards Jim will congratulate the remaining students on the completion of their work and offer thanks to everyone who's helped the 2005 session run so smoothly.

## Hay-nouement

After beginning the inevitable mowing of the meadow – the surest of signs that the summer is winding down – this morning, Leo will hook a trailer to his tractor tonight and take any interested children on a hayride. They'll leave from behind the Inn at 7:00, and though it may sound like a ton of fun, it is only open to the young in age, not the young at heart.

## Photo Finish

No doubt you've seen Ed Brown stalking, striding, or sneaking around campus, his camera around his neck, having been alerted to some picturesque or momentous or otherwise noteworthy doing. Tonight you'll see the fruits of his summer's labors, when he presents his annual Slide Show in the Barn starting at 9:00. It's a great opportunity to fix in your memory enduring images from Bread Loaf 2005 and to place bets on which shot will grace the cover of the 2006 Bread Loaf catalog.

## Parting Gifts

These last few days tend to be wistful, nostalgic ones, suffused with appreciation for this place; before you go, please convert some of that appreciation into the more tangible and greatly appreciated form of tips for the housekeepers and Waitstaff. Remember that without their efforts, we would be knee-deep in our own filth, reduced to foraging for berries and other edible flora, so give as generously as you can.

## Wrapping Up

If you'd like the Front Desk to ship your belongings home via UPS, bring your packages there tomorrow morning between 9 and 12. After that, you'll have to make your own mailing arrangements.

And will whoever left a box addressed to the Wilsons of East Topsham, VT at the Front Desk please retrieve it and pay for the postage, if you would in fact like the Front Desk to ship whatever it is to whoever they are?

## Not the Way He Hoped It Would Dent

Travis Farrell is still hoping to hear from whoever sideswiped his car – quite possibly unintentionally – while it was parked outside the Barn last week. His car is a 1999 Saab 9-3 four-door hatchback.

## Winding Gown

Those seniors who have not yet picked up their regalia (that's "cap and gown" if you're too exhausted from that last paper to process advanced vocabulary) can do so from the Front Desk, now that the Bookstore's shut its doors for the summer. Faculty should claim their regalia from Treman.

## No More Room

You are, of course, welcome to stay through breakfast Sunday morning, but if you're leaving before then – and particularly if you're a resident of the Inn, Bloomfield, or Ross – please tell Victoria, who's desperately in need of empty rooms for female visitors during Commencement weekend.

## Shut Down

If you need to check out mapquest.com for the easiest route home, catch up on all the real-world e-mail you've been neglecting for six weeks, combat boredom by e-cow-flinging (seriously: check out flingthecow.com) or even (perish the thought) finish up your class work, the Apple Cellar will remain open, albeit with reduced hours, through Saturday, as follows:

Thursday: 8:30-12:30, 2:00-5:00, 7:00-9:00

Friday: 9:00-11:00, 2:00-4:00

Saturday: 9:00-11:00

## Last Dance

Yes, Friday's dance is *technically* called the Senior Prom. Yes, technically there will be a Prom King and Queen. But please, people, we're adults now. There's no need to burst into tears because no one's yet asked you to go with him/her. There is no need to involve corsages, cummerbunds, taffeta, or four-hour hair appointments in your preparations. There's really no need to rent a stretch limo to pick you up at Larch and deliver you to the Barn. And there's no need to conceal a flask somewhere on your person and hope that Mr. Thornwibble doesn't notice you spiking the punch, as Kurt and Maggie and Jen will gladly hand you a beer once you show proof of age. The music goes from 9-1, with the Royal Court crowned at the stroke of midnight.

## Swan Song

Would any Madrigalists sticking around to sing at Commencement please meet in the Inn lobby right after lunch today to figure out a time to rehearse between today and Saturday? We won't need to warm up or practice where to breathe, so it'll be a short and sweet meeting.

## **Bye, Bye, Baby, Goodbye**

Croutons will provide child care during the Commencement festivities on Saturday (5:30-11 p.m.) for \$30/child. If you'd like someone to watch over your children or have guests that would like someone to watch over theirs, call Jessica at 388-2208 as soon as possible.

## **What Remains**

Madrigalists and other non-seniors who just can't bear the thought of tearing themselves away from Bread Loaf are welcome to stay for Saturday's Commencement Banquet, but any such people need to tell Victoria to reserve seats for them.

## **The Final Countdown**

Congratulations to the Boys of Barn East, the champions of this summer's Top Ten competition. The only prize for this accomplishment, I fear, is the private glow of profound spiritual satisfaction, as sidling up to an attractive person and saying "You're talking to the 2005 Bread Loaf Top Ten champion" is unlikely to elicit anything but derision. Not to burst their bubble, or anything – but let's just move on to the

### **Top Ten (Plus a Few for the Road) Endings of Bread Loaf: The Movie**

15. Dixie and Isobel Armstrong clasp hands as they drive their convertible off the cliff. (BOBE)
14. Asher, poised atop a spruce tree, immobilizes campus in web. (MWR)
13. Wofford's loyal festive subjects lead entire student body into meadow for riotous gown greening. (MWR)
12. Emily Bartels wielding a sword standing over the headless body of Jim Maddox saying, "There can be only one!" (BOBE)
11. Students assemble in meadow to await effects of John Elder's mass prescription for special "syrup." (MWR)
10. The scruffy waiter proves to the refined though naïve M. Litt. Senior what true love really is. (BOBE)
9. Ed Brown pacing in small circles photographing his own shoe. (MWR)
8. Barbecue on west lawn spirals into book-burning frenzy. (MWR)
7. Looking over the remains of his ill-conceived theme park of cloned literary figures, Jim Maddox sheds a tear and admits he should not have played God. (BOBE)
6. Leo, in his pursuit of gophers, blows up the campus. (EMS)
5. Despite the execution of their leader Russell Silverman at the hands of Edward the Longshanks, the waitstaff rises up and fights like warrior poets to win their freedom. (BOBE)
4. Hopelessly adrift in John's Pond after their floaties deflate, Jim urges Emily, "Don't let go. Never let go." Emily promptly lets go. (BOBE)
3. Exit, pursued by a bear. (MWR)
2. After Ol' Sharkey's reign of terror in John's Pond, Maddox wedges an oxygen tank in his mouth, takes aim, and cries, "Die, you son of a bitch!" (BOBE)
1. Jim rolls over in bed, nudges Lucy, and says, "I had this crazy dream about an inn in Vermont...." (EMS)

## **Crumb-Clusion**

One last *Crumb* will appear before lunch tomorrow, but as it's more ceremonial than informational, you may want to post prominently on the Inn bulletin boards any announcements or requests between now and Saturday. For now, we ask that you place your car seat backs in their full upright position as you prepare for departure, pass all remaining service items (library books, Dining Hall china, etc.) to the cabin crew, and discontinue the use of laptop computers for anything other than Internet Boggle or chat-room surfing. It's been a pleasure serving you, and we hope that you'll consider flying back to these very friendly skies next year. Until then, this is your *Crumb Bum*, signing off.

## **Ye Olde Promme Court Ballot**

**Vote for a king & queen, two kings, two queens, or any other combination...and return to the Front Desk**

**Monarch #1: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Monarch #2: \_\_\_\_\_**

# The Crumb

*The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English*

Volume 86, Number 32

Thursday, August 11, 2005

## Weekend Schedule

### Thursday:

Dinner 6-6:45

### Friday:

Breakfast 8-8:45

Lunch 12:30-1:15

Dinner 6-6:45

Slide Show 8:30,  
Barn

Karaoke  
9-10:30, Barn

Slide Show  
10:30, Barn

Dance 11-1, Barn

### Saturday:

Breakfast 8-8:45

Picnic Lunch  
(friends & families  
invited)  
12:30, West Lawn

Frost Cabin  
Tours 2-3:30

Commencement  
Banquet  
(open to everyone,  
but non-seniors must  
see Victoria to  
reserve a seat)  
6:00, Dining Hall

Commencement  
8:15, Theatre

Champagne  
Reception  
After ceremony,  
Barn

### Sunday:

Breakfast 8-8:45

All rooms must  
be vacated by 11  
a.m.

Once again Ellen took the familiar path up the mountainside, her figure flecked with rosy light as the sun, dipping behind the hills, bathed the peaceful setting in a warm glow; once again her friend the Pine greeted her with a gentle rustle of his stately boughs.

"The old Pine must think Ellen a laggard," she said, "for she promised him another visit for this afternoon, and now the evening is already advanced. But here," she continued, settling herself on a smooth outcropping of rock, "is your Ellen returned at last."

"And well you might say *at last*, Ellen," I replied, "for the old pine can guess that this visit will be your last one, perhaps for some time. For these past several days I have seen a great bustling burst of activity further down the mountain, a tumult that seems both celebratory and mournful, which has now given way to a silence I've not felt since springtime. The old Pine remembers discussing much of the principles of sound with Ellen this year, and that Ellen has explained this phenomenon of the dissipation of sound to the old Pine, but perhaps Ellen should like to tell him once again of the goings-on whence she comes and whither she shall soon return."

Ellen answered, "Very well, old Pine, Ellen will repeat the familiar story once again, both for the old Pine's pleasure as well as for her own fond recollection of these days. The dissipation of sound to which you refer is caused by the departure of those who, having concluded their summer's labors, now begin their journeys to homes both close and distant, and the preceding noises were a combination of joyous congratulation and melancholy farewell."

"Can both happiness and sadness exist in the same body, at the same moment?" the Pine asked.

"The old Pine knows that it can, for it was he who first told Ellen of the complex emotions of *wistfulness* and *nostalgia*, in which the sad act of longing for the happinesses of irretrievable past times is muted by the profound pleasure which that very act of remembering generates."

"With what occupations do those who remain, like Ellen, busy themselves?" the Pine continued.

"On Friday night we gather in the barn for singing and dancing, which is what we call moving our limbs much as you move yours when a strong wind blows through them, although the old Pine would not find our music as soothing as that of the whippoorwill or the finches to which he is accustomed."

"Indeed, Ellen, when the wind is southerly, the old Pine can hear its faint echoes even here, and he must say that he does not care for it, though Ellen will remember our having concluded that the distinctness of each being's musical appreciations is a phenomenon for which no explanatory formula has yet been devised. But Ellen should not digress."

"Very well, old Pine. On Saturday we gather with families and friends for a picnic lunch under the branches of your friends the sugar-maple and the beech; that evening a most appetizing banquet is produced at six, at which the President of the graduating class speaks. Then we proceed to the theatre for the distribution of diplomas and the donning of hoods, and thence to the Barn for a reception with champagne, which Ellen hopes to try for the first time, if the old Pine thinks it wise."

"The next morning, dear Pine, Ellen will rouse herself, pack her belongings in her trunk (not such a one as *you* have, but a unit of storage), and take her breakfast before finally bidding good-bye to her friends. But oh, dear Pine, what if I should summer elsewhere next year, or not return at all? Not being near the old Pine is something Ellen dislikes contemplating!" she lamented.

"Ah, but the old Pine is not the only wise tree in the world's woods, sweet Ellen. There are innumerable others: saguaros in New Mexico, or fir trees in Alaska, or closely manicured lawns of England, or even other pines in North Carolina, that have much to teach Ellen, just as there have been, and will continue to be, other young lads and lasses sitting at the old Pine's roots, just as you have these recent years. So if Ellen's farewell this year is in fact a farewell forever to this old Pine, she need not feel sadness. As Ellen has said herself, the sadness that her not returning next year might beget would be sadness of a *wistful* or *nostalgic* variety, sadness that can only exist because happiness – namely, the countless pleasant days we have spent in each other's company – has."

"It is just that the old Pine should also be called the wise old Pine," Ellen responded, "for he has made her feel so much better about saying good-bye – which, as the light is getting dim, she supposes she should do." She stood up, shook out the pine needles clinging to her dress, and said, simply, "Good-bye, dear Pine."

"Good-bye, Ellen, and good fortune." And soon her trailing figure deepened among the lengthening shadows until the old Pine could see her no more, whereupon he resumed his post, a silent sentinel gazing placidly over the little outpost he had seen carved from the woods all those years ago and would watch over for years to come.